

WHO WAS MONA LISA? THE SECRET BEHIND THE SMILE



# HISTORY REVEALED

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE  
ISSUE 17 // JUNE 2015 // £3.99

## VICTORIAN LONDON

A tale of two cities



## PLUS

EVA PERÓN

ROSETTA STONE

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

10 BIZARRE FESTIVALS

# THE WILD WEST

Who were the heroes and villains  
of the American frontier?

IMMEDIATE MEDIA  
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## MARCO POLO

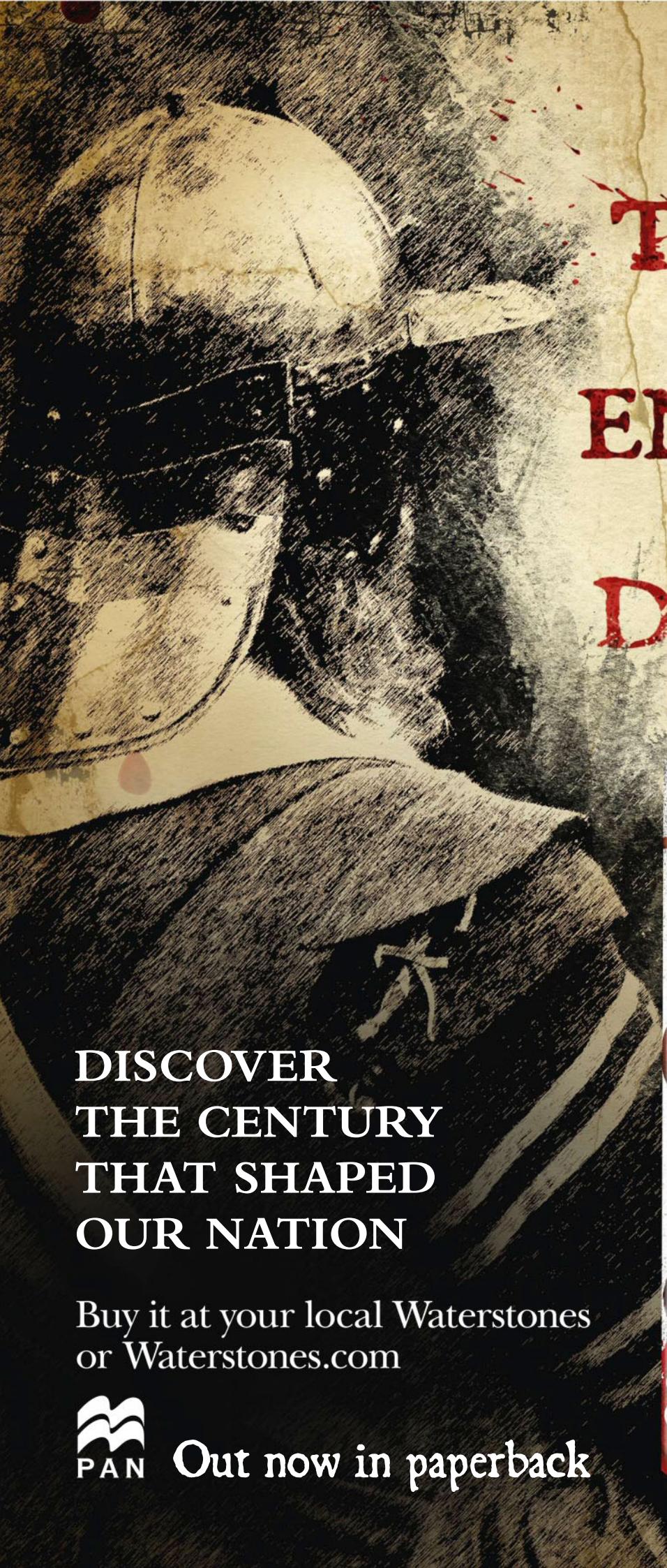
The original  
globetrotter



MISSION: BLOW UP  
NAZI HARBOUR  
WWII's Cockleshell Heroes

WHEN THE DUTCH  
INVADED KENT  
Raid on the Medway





# KINGS, TRAITORS AND ENGLAND'S ONLY DIC<sup>T</sup>A<sup>T</sup>O<sup>R</sup>

DISCOVER  
THE CENTURY  
THAT SHAPED  
OUR NATION

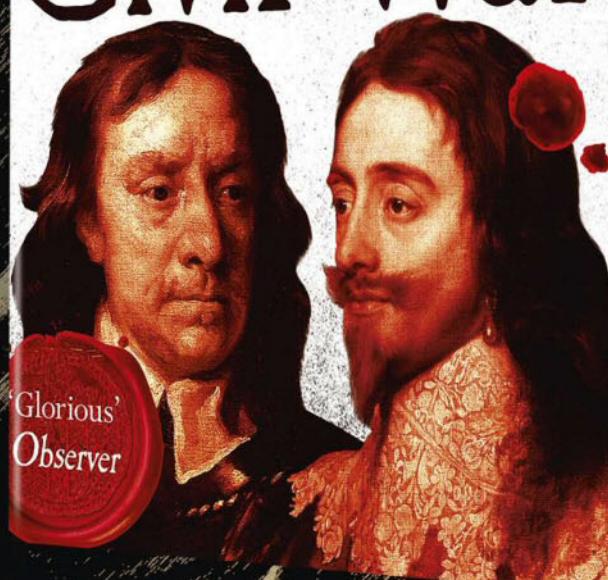
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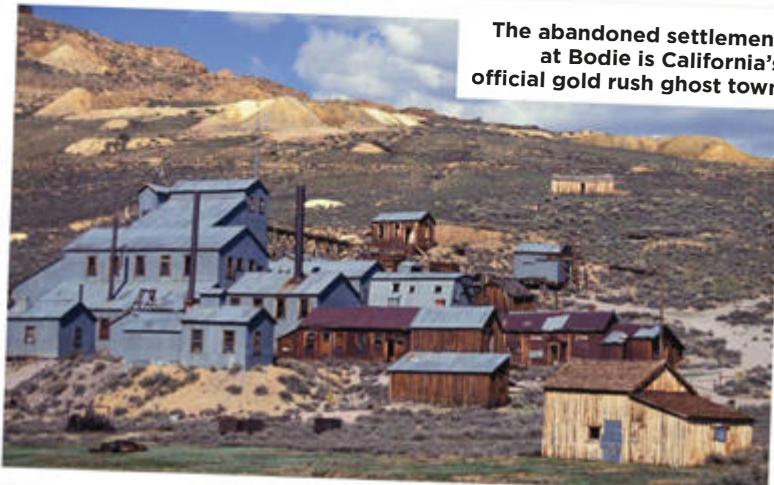
# Welcome



For many of us who grew up in the 20th century, **our first encounters with the past** will have been through the movies and TV shows that filled our screens. And one brief period has a genre all of its own: the Western. But away from the 'Cowboys and Indians' of legend, **the real story of the Wild West** is the story of the birth of the most powerful nation on Earth. And what a tale it is, **every bit as dramatic, jaw-dropping and harrowing** as Hollywood would have us believe. We go west from page 26.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the Atlantic, the world was a very different place, as our **revealing photographs from Victorian London** show (p64). And sticking with Britain's background, there are few more defining moments in the history of these islands than the Battle of Flodden (p70), when the Scottish King James IV became **the last British monarch to be killed in battle**.

We have a treat in store for lovers of adventure, as **it doesn't get any more remarkable** than the feats of the Cockleshell Heroes (p78), a band of WWII commandos



The abandoned settlement at Bodie is California's official gold rush ghost town

who canoed into Nazi-occupied France, armed with little more than **a spare paddle, a change of clothes and a supply of mines**. Don't miss their extraordinary exploits.

Lastly, be sure to keep those emails, letters and messages coming! We love to hear what you've thought of the issue.

**Paul McGuinness**  
Editor

**Don't miss our July issue, on sale 25 June**

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## ON THE COVER

Your key to the big stories...



## THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

**192**

The distance of the first Olympic sprint – which had to be undertaken naked. See page 57.

**17**

The age of Ohio student Robert Heft when he designed what would become the 50-state Stars and Stripes flag – as part of a high-school project. See page 98.

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Number of years that Marco Polo was away from Venice on his journeys around the Far East. See page 51.

26

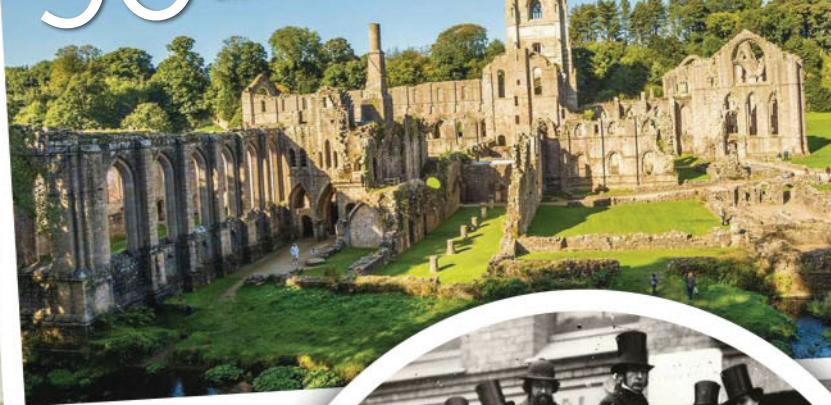
# THE WILD WEST

The frontier spirit that drove wagons into the American wilderness



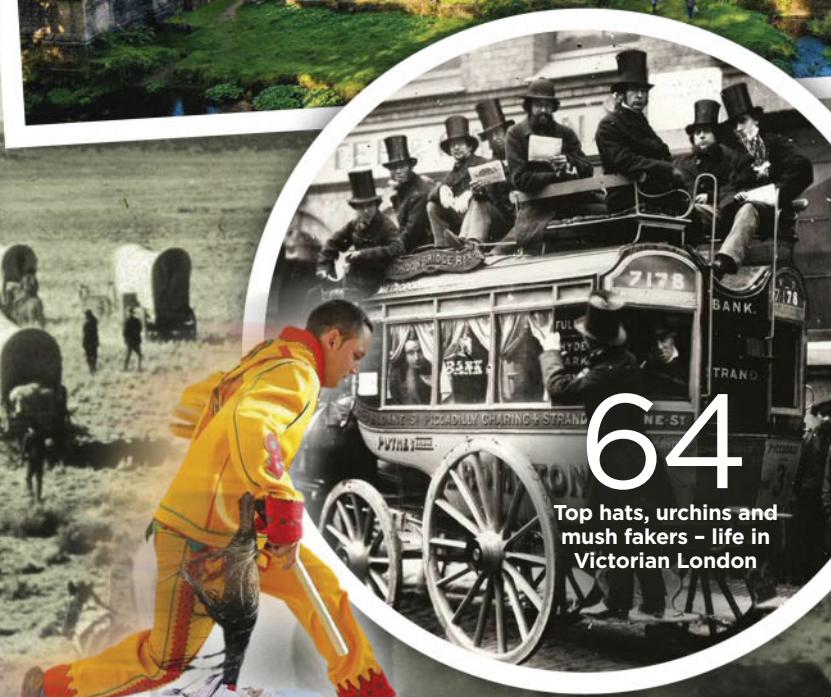
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Why Henry VIII attacked the abbeys and melted the monasteries' goods



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Top hats, urchins and mush fakers – life in Victorian London



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JUNE 2015

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Who does this notebook belong to (hint: he translated the Rosetta Stone)? (p59); What was the first opera? (p58)

## READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

### PIRATE LEGACY

Thanks for producing such a fine article on piracy (The Big Story, Pirates, February 2015). I am most likely descended from a pirate, or at least a slave ship master mariner – James Vaughan (circa the late-1700s). A DNA test has shown I have many DNA links to folk in the West Indies and one or two in Benin and the

the survey did not provide first names of the masters so I can not be absolutely positive that he is the 'James' Vaughan.

There are thousands of folk of mixed European-African descent who could find their European ancestry by DNA. Your excellent article may help them retrace their family line.

**"I am most likely descended from a pirate – or at least a slave ship master mariner."**

Cameroons. A brief mention of the ship, the *Ranger* may prove to be a vital link for me as James Vaughan was master of a gun sloop called *Ranger* at one point, and is mentioned in a special survey of that trade and its ships and ship masters. In the survey, Vaughan appears as master of several slave ships from 1799 and 1800 but, unfortunately,

Another James Vaughan appears in the annuals on pirates as owner of the ship *Hope*, sighted by Woodes Rogers in his round-the-world voyage of 1708. It was identified by Woodes Rogers' first mate Alexander Vaughan (no doubt a relation of James). Your article covers Woodes Rogers' crucial role in the Caribbean in putting down piracy. Slavery went on

LETTER  
OF THE  
MONTH



**BURIED TREASURE**  
**Roy found some of his family history revealed in our recent pirates feature**

for many more decades after piracy was terminated in that part of the world.  
**Roy Vaughan,**  
Former British and New Zealand merchant navy deck officer, New Zealand

#### Editor replies:

I'm thrilled that we may have helped to fill in a piece of the mystery for you, Roy. It sounds like you have already done quite a bit of research, but you may wish to take a look at the Legacies of British Slave-ownership website, compiled by researchers at UCL. Free

**Roy wins a copy of *The Treasures of Leonardo da Vinci* by Matthew Landrus published by Andre Deutsch, worth £25. Beautifully illustrated, the book also contains 15 items of rare memorabilia – maps, designs and more.**



### FORGOTTEN HEROES

Your May 2015 issue featured an article on the Battle of Britain with a section entitled Sky Heroes, in which you listed those pilots from the Commonwealth and other countries and who took part. Whilst I could not agree more that they were all heroes, there is a group that served with equal valour, which you failed to mention.

Some 57 pilots of the Fleet Air Arm were seconded to RAF squadrons for the duration of the Battle of Britain – one of whom, Sub-Lieutenant Richard (Dickie) Cork RN, served as wingman to Douglas Bader in 242 Squadron.

Also, two Fleet Air Arm Squadrons – Nos 804 flying Gloster Sea Gladiators (which were obsolete biplanes) and 808 flying Fairey Albacores – were serving as dockyard defence squadrons

**LEST WE FORGET**  
**'The Few' were, of course, made up of many elements**

and are recognised as having taken part in the Battle.

It is not unusual for articles about the Battle of Britain to fail to mention the part played by the Fleet Air Arm pilots, many of them giving their lives in our defence, but they did take part and are entitled to be remembered alongside their RAF colleagues.

**Peter Colston,**  
Hon Secretary, Ford Branch, Fleet Air Arm Association, West Sussex

**Writer Julian Humphrys replies:**  
You're quite right that the Fleet Air Arm made an invaluable contribution – as indeed did RAF Coastal Command, the RAF

Balloon Command, the Army's Anti-Aircraft Command, the pilots of the Auxiliary Air Force and a squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force, not to mention the Corpo Aero Italiano on the German side! Sadly, space forbade us delving further. Each of these contributors – including the Fleet Air Arm – had a fascinating story, though, well worth looking up to find out more.

If you like history & musicals, May's @HistoryRevMag has a nice piece on the disastrous June Rebellion of 1832 (AKA 'that one from Les Mis') @John\_Bizzell



## INTRIGUING READ

Love the magazine, look forward to it arriving every month. The piece about the Battle of Britain (May 2015) was intriguing but it was a shame that Liverpool was not mentioned. The American army marched from the pier head to Aintree giving out candy, not to mention the underground war cabinet based in the city centre.

**Mr S Edmondson,**  
Liverpool

### Editor replies:

Fear not, Mr Edmonson, we'll be including Liverpool in a feature on the Blitz soon!

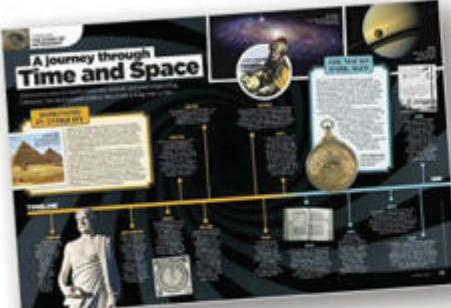
**f** Really enjoyed 'The Big Story' of the Battle of Britain. I do not usually read anything concerning the First or Second World Wars but your article explained the action so clearly and distinctly. Thank you so much.  
Elaine Robinson

## ASTRONOMIC OMISSION

The variety of wonderful topics in the magazine is excellent. Well done!

I don't know if you have ever seen the wonderful BBC4 documentary *Decoding the World's First Computer* – which unravels the mystery of the Antikythera mechanism, which was probably designed by Archimedes himself in the third century BC – but if you have then you will realise its absence from your timeline (The Story of Astronomy, March 2015) constitutes a serious omission. Indeed, the Antikythera mechanism surely deserves a major article all to itself.

**Paul Arthur,**  
Surrey



### Editor replies:

We had to be pretty ruthless when it came to deciding which astronomic highlights would make our timeline, and the Antikythera mechanism wasn't the only development to just miss out – for instance Giovanni Cassini's discoveries from the 17th century, and even Archimedes himself both failed to make the cut!

## FIGURE PAINTING

Regarding the Acropolis graphic (Q&A, April 2015), the statue of 'Athena Parthenos' actually looked more like the replica (above) currently on view. All Greek and Roman statues were painted to look human. Unadorned marble was a Renaissance affectation.

**Jim Duke,**  
California

### Editor replies:

It's wonderful to see a version of the Phidias statue in its gilded and painted glory. This colossal modern copy is housed in Nashville, Tennessee, in a full-scale replica of the Parthenon.

**f** Concise important facts on your chosen themes broken down into easy relatable stories for young and old. Not an issue of dead weight. Thanks for making history so much fun to rediscover.  
Matthew Wilson



**GOLDEN GIRL**  
Nashville, Tennessee, is home to the world's second most famous Parthenon

The all-marble replica we showed is the 'Varvakeion', a Roman copy of the original from around 130 AD, which is housed at the National Archaeological Museum of Athens.

**t** Just discovered your mag. Now haunting bookstore for each new copy. The mixture of topics fits my interests perfectly. @norbratt

## ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 14 are:  
**Frances Gubbins**, Herts  
**Edward Smith**, Notts  
**Jacquie Clark**, Essex

Well done! You have each won a copy of *The Greatest Knight* by Thomas Asbridge, worth £20, published by Simon & Schuster. To test your wits this month, turn to page 96.

## GET IN TOUCH

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**IMMEDIATE MEDIA**





# TIME CAPSULE

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY





SNAPSHOT

# 1966 MAGIC MIRROR

No matter who the monarch of Britain is, they can always be sure that, wherever they go, they will be flanked by crowds. These women, from 1966, are so keen to get a glimpse of Elizabeth II as she passes through London – having recently returned from a tour of South America and the Caribbean – that they’re using their compacts to try and catch the royal reflection. They must be careful not to cause offence, however, as they have had to turn their backs to her Majesty.



TIME CAPSULE  
JUNE



**SNAPSHOT**

**1914**

# **WAVE FOR THE CAMERA**

**Early 20th-century cameras are far from compact, but that doesn't stop this photographer from plying his trade on the beach at Ostend, Belgium.**

**What these women are wearing for a dip in the sea may look frumpy when compared to today's swimsuits and bikinis, but their outfits have only recently become accepted. Women were arrested for indecent exposure if they showed any of their arms, legs or neckline, meaning that swimwear looked more like evening gowns made of wool - which got very heavy when wet.**





SNAPSHOT

# 1986 THE HAND OF GOD

Only four years after the Falklands War, England-Argentina relations threaten to boil over again with one of football's most infamous goals. In the 51st minute of their 1986 FIFA World Cup quarter-final, Diego Maradona, the stocky star, leaps high over the English goalkeeper Peter Shilton and puts the ball in the back of the net – with the help of his hand.

The goal is allowed, and England are left undone when, only minutes later, Maradona scores a second, sensational goal. After the match, Maradona is asked about his controversial 'header' – all he has to say is that it was scored "a little with the head of Maradona and a little with the hand of God".







## TIME CAPSULE JUNE

# "I READ THE NEWS TODAY..."

Weird and wonderful, it all happened in **June**

### MOVING PICTURES

#### 1878 GALLOP ROLL

In 1872, English photographer Eadweard Muybridge was hired by wealthy horse-owner Leland Stanford to prove a theory of his. Stanford believed that all four of a horse's legs leave the ground when trotting and galloping. This mission set Muybridge on a pioneering path into **motion capture**, which, on 19 June 1878, culminated with his study *The Horse in Motion*. The photos showed, for the very first time, the full movement of a horse's gait, and proved Stanford right. To display his images properly, Muybridge developed a device known as a **zoopraxiscope** – an early motion-picture projector.



### LEAVING THE FARM 1661 NEWTON'S NEW START

What if Isaac Newton never got the opportunity to study at university? It nearly happened, as **his mother didn't want him to go**, considering it a waste of money. She wanted her son to stay home and farm instead. But, luckily for the world of science, she was persuaded, and Newton entered Trinity College, Cambridge, on 5 June 1661. Money remained a concern, however, so **Newton was a subsizar** – this meant he paid less in fees but had to work in the college kitchens and act as a servant.



### LEADERLESS

With Frederick dead, his army collapsed into chaos. When attacked by the Turks, thousands were killed or even committed suicide, while others deserted.

### DROWN DEAD FRED 1190 CRUSADER CAUGHT IN THE CURRENT

On 10 June 1190, Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I drowned while leading his army on the Third Crusade. As his men slowly crossed a small bridge over the Saleph River (now the Göksu River in Turkey) the Emperor, still clad in heavy armour, **walked his horse into the water** in an attempt to ford the flow. When the current proved too strong for his steed, the Emperor was **dragged underwater**.



### LET'S GO FLY A KITE 1752 SHOCKING!

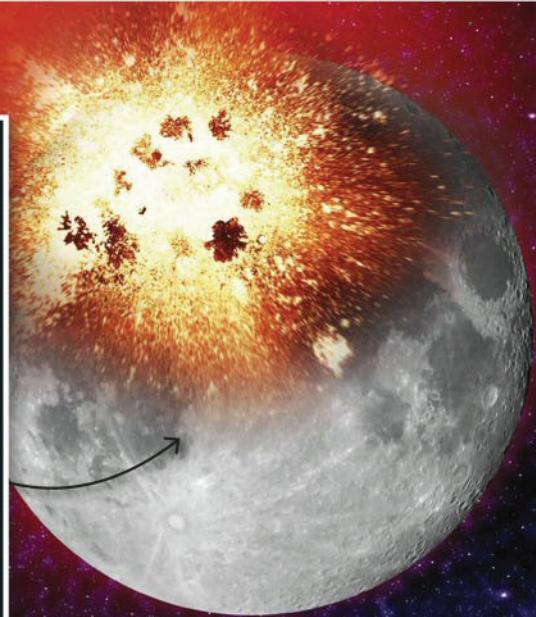
Electricity was the buzz word when celebrated polymath (and Founding Father of the United States) **Benjamin Franklin** conducted his

kite experiment. Several scientists had tried similar experiments before, but it was Franklin who, in June 1752 in Philadelphia, officially uncovered the electrical nature of lightning. **Mid-storm**, he flew a kite with a key at one end of the string, which conducted electricity into a special container. His groundbreaking findings led to his invention of the lightning rod.



## SHOOT THE MOON 1178 SEE YOU CRATER

Shortly after sunset on 18 June 1178, five shocked monks from Canterbury reported witnessing an **explosion on the Moon**. The abbey's chronicler, Gervase, wrote that the Moon was split in two and that "a **flaming torch** sprang up, spewing out, over a considerable distance, fire, hot coals and sparks". If these fireworks were caused by a meteorite, it could have created one of the Moon's more impressive craters.



## SAILORS LOSE A FRIEND 1898 END OF THE LINE

English politician and 'sailors' friend' Samuel Plimsoll left a **lasting legacy in naval safety**. In a time when ships were often overloaded – and heavily insured, meaning ship owners thought little of risking their crew – his **'Plimsoll Line'**, drawn on the side of the hull, indicated the ship's maximum safe draft. Such was the respect for Plimsoll that, when he died aged 74 on 3 June 1898, sailors carried his coffin to a churchyard overlooking a harbour, where ship flags flew at half-mast.

## TITANIC TALES 1911 'MISS UNSINKABLE'

Working as a stewardess, Violet Jessop's career at sea was fraught with **life-endangering accidents**. The first was aboard the RMS *Olympic*, which struck another vessel, HMS *Hawke*, in September 1911 and was badly damaged. Jessop then **survived two sinkings** – the catastrophic *Titanic* in April 1912 and a hospital ship, *Britannic*, which hit a mine during World War I.



## "...OH BOY"

**June** events that changed the world

### 13 JUNE 323 BC HOW THE MIGHTY FALL

At the age of 32, the military hero and empire-builder Alexander the Great dies.

### 15 JUNE 1215 SEALING THE DEAL

King John meets with his barons and grants his royal seal to Magna Carta.

### 24 JUNE 1314 GREAT SCOT!

Robert the Bruce, King of the Scots, achieves a landmark victory over the English at the Battle of Bannockburn.

### 26 JUNE 1483 RICHARD'S REIGN

Following the death of King Edward IV, Richard III claims the throne.

### 10 JUNE 1829 OAR-SOME SIGHT

Oxford and Cambridge boat crews race for the first time – Oxford win easily.

### 28 JUNE 1914 THE FIRST SHOT

The Archduke Franz Ferdinand's death sets off events leading to World War I.

### 6 JUNE 1944 I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BEACH

Allied forces land on the beaches of Normandy as part of the D-Day operation.

## AND FINALLY...

Most people find hiccups annoying, but spare a thought for American Charles Osborne, who **hiccupped non-stop for 68 years**. From June 1922 to 1990, poor Osborne let out a staggering 430 million hiccups.

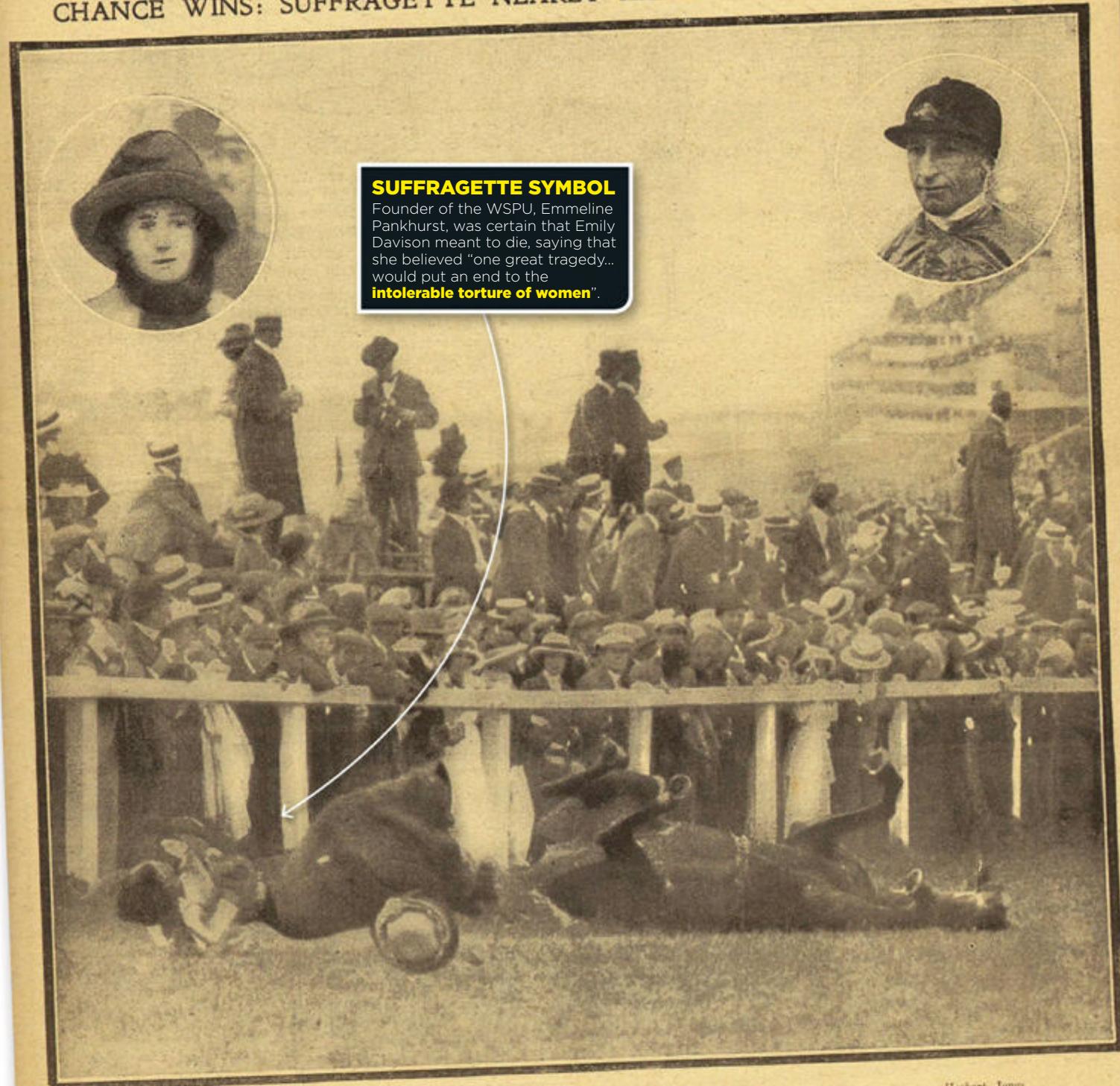


# DAILY SKETCH.

No. 1,323.—THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1913.

LONDON: 49-57, Shoe-Lane, E.C. MANCHESTER: Withy-grove.  
Telephones—Editorial and Publishing: 8678 Holborn. Advertisements: 12,702 Central. [Registered as a Newspaper.] ONE HALFPENNY.

HISTORY'S MOST WONDERFUL DERBY: FIRST HORSE DISQUALIFIED: A 100 TO 1 CHANCE WINS: SUFFRAGETTE NEARLY KILLED BY THE KING'S COLT.



Miss Emily Davison

The woman falling to the ground.

The King's horse, Anmer, falls on his jockey.

Herbert Jones

Yesterday's Derby was extraordinary. Not only was Craganour, the favourite, disqualified after finishing first, the race being awarded to Aboyeur; a suffragette ran across the course at Tattenham Corner and seized the bridle of the King's horse. The King's horse and jockey were thrown to the ground, while the woman was nearly killed. The extraordinary photograph seen above was taken by the Daily Sketch a second after the horse and the woman fell to the ground.

# YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On 5 June 1913, dramatic scenes from the Epsom Derby make the front page

## “DEEDS NOT WORDS” WOMEN’S SOCIAL POLITICAL UNION

The fight for women’s suffrage had intensified since the suffragettes of the Women’s Social Political Union (WSPU) turned to window-smashing and arson. By inviting arrest, they hoped to draw attention to their cause. Even in prison, the fight continued with hunger strikes. But these resulted in barbaric and painful forced feeding. Still, despite these extreme actions the vote was no nearer. Increasingly, women turned to hazardous, and desperate, deeds.

One of the most militant suffragettes was Emily Wilding Davison, a member of the WSPU since 1906. As well as breaking windows and setting fire to pillar-boxes, she once attacked a man she mistakenly believed to be the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Imprisoned nine times, Davison was force-fed on multiple occasions – to escape the abuse and make its horrors public, she threw herself from a prison staircase in a failed suicide bid.

Then, at the Epsom Derby horse race on 4 June 1913, Davison risked her life again. The 40-year-old ran onto the track, as the horses galloped towards her at full speed, and attempted to grab hold of Anmer, the horse belonging to King George V. She was knocked to the ground and trampled. With severe head injuries, she died four days later, having never regained consciousness.

Many saw this as an act of martyrdom, yet there is reason to question this as Davison had purchased a return train ticket. It is possible that all she intended was to attach a banner bearing the WSPU colours to the horse’s reins, before the terrible and tragic accident. ☀

### A COMMON HOME

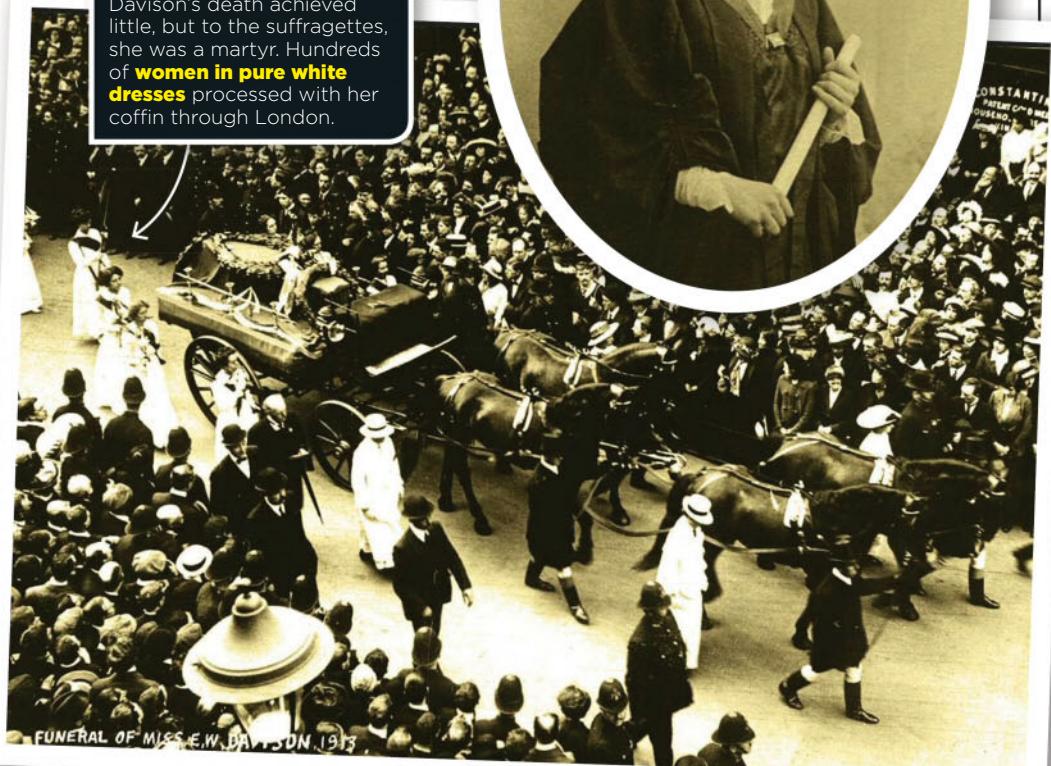
On the night of the 1911 census, Emily Davison hid in a broom cupboard in Westminster so that she could give her address as ‘the House of Commons’. In the 1990s, the MP Tony Benn secretly erected a plaque in the cupboard honouring Davison’s audacious subterfuge.

### THE SUFFRAGETTE MARTYR

RIGHT: Davison went to St Hugh's Hall, Oxford, and achieved first-class honours in English – but women couldn’t graduate  
BELOW: Thousands lined the streets for Davison’s funeral

### IN MOURNING

Davison’s death achieved little, but to the suffragettes, she was a martyr. Hundreds of women in pure white dresses processed with her coffin through London.



## 1913 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

**3 JUNE** British ornithologist David Armitage Bannerman catches the last known specimen of the **Canary Islands oystercatcher**. The bird is spotted after Bannerman’s sample but is now extinct.

**7 JUNE** North America’s highest peak, Mount McKinley (6,194m), is conquered by **Alaskan missionary Hudson Stuck**. A member of his team describes the view as “like looking out the windows of Heaven!”

**25 JUNE** The first of 50,000 veterans arrives at the site of the **Battle of Gettysburg**. A camp has been specially created for the American Civil War Reunion, 50 years after the bloodshed.



## TIME CAPSULE JUNE

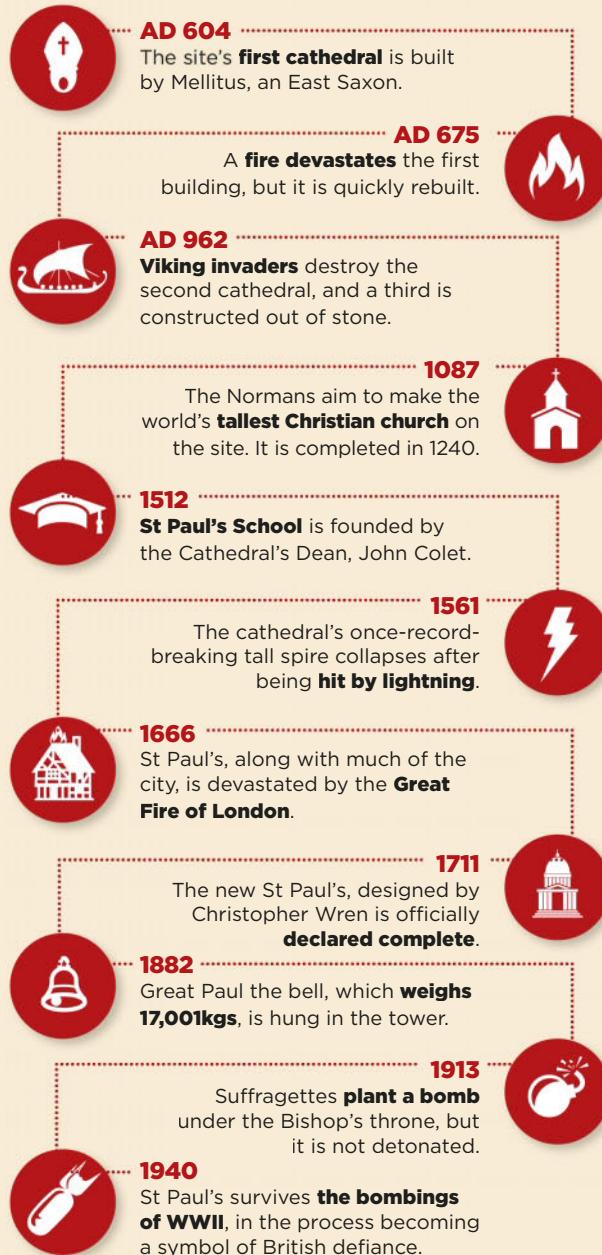
# GRAPHIC HISTORY

The story behind St Paul's

# 1675 FIRST STONE LAID

In June 1675, work begins on a future landmark of London, St Paul's Cathedral...

## TIMELINE



"AT ALL COSTS,  
ST PAUL'S MUST BE SAVED"

WINSTON CHURCHILL, 1940

## IN THE CRYPT

### CHRISTOPHER WREN

Architect of St Paul's, buried 1723

### LORD NELSON

Naval Commander, buried 1805

### JOSEPH TURNER

Painter, buried 1851

### DUKE OF WELLINGTON

Prime Minister, buried 1852

### ALEXANDER FLEMING

Biologist, buried 1955

St Paul's has become the eternal resting place for many of Britain's **most-respected citizens**. As well as war heroes, great politicians, esteemed architects, and artists, including those listed on the left, a walk around the sacred site will also reveal the graves of numerous authors, composers, philosophers and more.

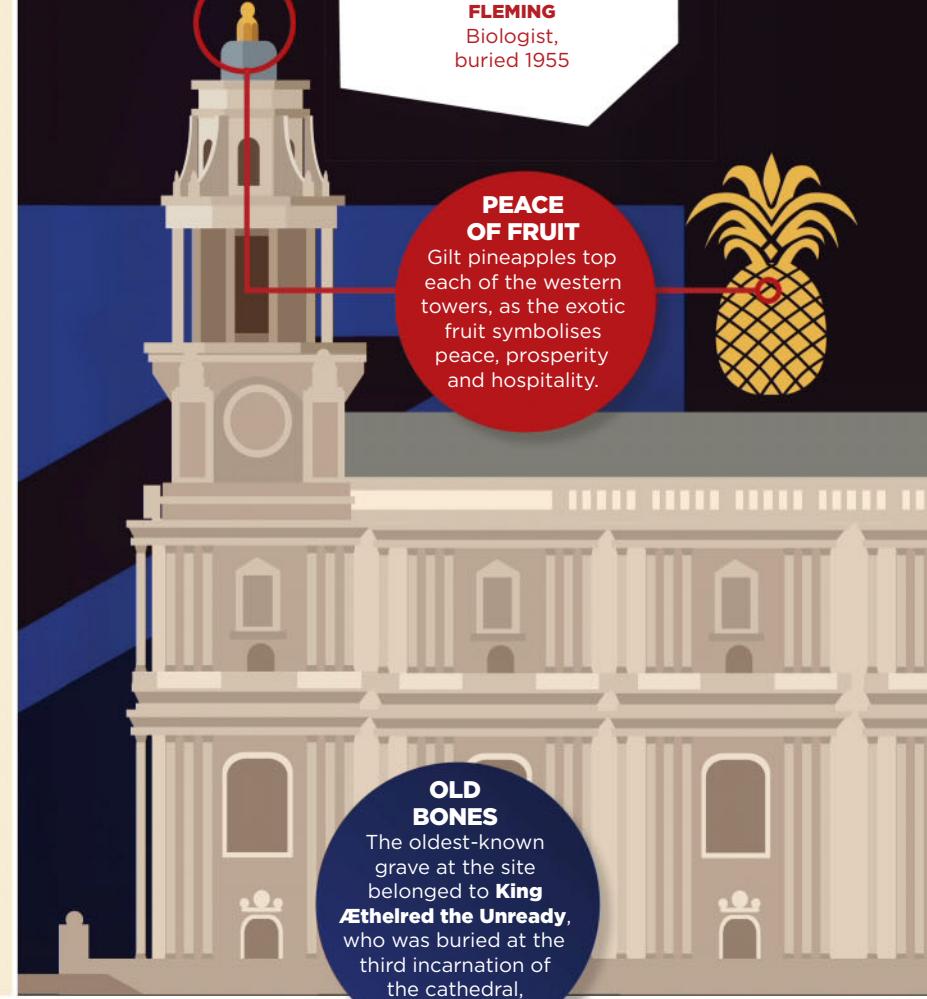
### 'OPERATION HOPE NOT'

Not many **funerals** have a codename, but Winston Churchill's did. On 30 January 1965, the great wartime leader was laid to rest, after a state service at St Paul's.



### PEACE OF FRUIT

Gilt pineapples top each of the western towers, as the exotic fruit symbolises peace, prosperity and hospitality.



### OLD BONES

The oldest-known grave at the site belonged to King Æthelred the Unready, who was buried at the third incarnation of the cathedral, in 1016.

### REMEMBER, REMEMBER

IN 1606, FOUR OF THE GUNPOWDER PLOTS WERE **EXECUTED** AT ST PAUL'S, BEFORE A HUGE CROWD.



### BALL & LANTERN

This iconic crux is 7 metres high. The original one was added in 1708, but replaced by the present design in 1821.

111M

85M

52M

30M

THE NUMBER OF YEARS IT **TOOK TO BUILD**  
THE CATHEDRAL THAT STANDS TODAY.

**IN MEMORANDUM**  
NOTED PRISON REFORMER JOHN HOWARD WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO BE HONOURED WITH A MEMORIAL IN THE CURRENT CATHEDRAL. IN 1790. THERE ARE NOW **OVER 300**.

THE **WEIGHT**, IN TONS, **OF THE DOME** - IT'S THE WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST CHURCH DOME.

65,000  
17

THE NUMBER OF CARRIAGES IN QUEEN VICTORIA'S PROCESSION TO ST PAUL'S, ON THE DAY OF HER **DIAMOND JUBILEE** IN 1897.



### HOLY BOOK BURNING

COPIES OF **WILLIAM TYNDALE'S BIBLE** - A VERSION THAT HAD BEEN TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH INSTEAD OF BEING PRESERVED IN LATIN - WERE **BURNED** AT ST PAUL'S IN 1526.

4

THE NUMBER OF **PRECEDING CATHEDRALS** THAT STOOD ON THE SAME SITE.

13,000

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO SQUEEZED INTO THE CATHEDRAL FOR THE **DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S FUNERAL** IN 1852.



### WEDDING BELLS

THERE HAVEN'T BEEN MANY ROYAL WEDDINGS AT ST PAUL'S - OF HEIRS TO THE THRONE, **JUST TWO**: PRINCE ARTHUR WED CATHERINE OF ARAGON IN 1501, AND PRINCE CHARLES MARRIED DIANA SPENCER IN 1981.

### DOME

### WITHIN A DOME (WITHIN A DOME)

The dome seen from the outside of St Paul's is not the same as the one on the inside. There are, in fact, three - a grand, impressive outer roof; a daintier, but elaborate inner dome; and a structural arch between the two.

To protect the landmark from German bombs during WWII, volunteer firefighters patrolled the Cathedral every night. They were armed only with sandbags and hoses.

### BATTLE STATIONS

It is 257 steps up to reach this interior platform, which is named after an architectural quirk. A whisper against its walls is clearly audible on the opposite side.

### WHISPERING GALLERY

It is 257 steps up to reach this interior platform, which is named after an architectural quirk. A whisper against its walls is clearly audible on the opposite side.



## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

How Adolf Hitler quashed the last remnants of opposition, and secured power for his Nazi regime in one fell swoop

# 1934 THE NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES

*Germany saw how ruthless Hitler could be when he ordered a purge of his own SA brownshirts – and the execution of his right-hand man, Ernst Röhm*

### FALLING NUMBERS

At the time of the purge, there were as many as **4 million** **Storm Troopers** in the SA, most of whom were nothing more than street brawlers. By April 1938, however, SA membership plummeted to just over 1 million.



**THE LAST WAVE**  
Ernst Röhm inspects a 100,000-strong parade of his Storm Troopers, just days before he is killed on Hitler's orders

### ERNST RÖHM

In prison, Röhm was given a pistol with a single bullet and ordered to kill himself. He refused, reportedly saying, "If I am to be killed, let Adolf do it himself". Röhm was shot three times, but not by his old friend, Hitler.

**S**ince his appointment as Chancellor in January 1933, Adolf Hitler had, with efficient alacrity, set about establishing himself as dictator of Germany. By early 1934, all that stood in his way from absolute power was elderly President Paul von Hindenburg, who was dying, and threats from within the Nazi regime itself, such as the paramilitary organisation, the *Sturmabteilung* (SA).

A thuggish band of street-brawlers nicknamed the 'Brownshirts' or 'Storm Troopers', the SA had been useful in the twenties, intimidating Nazi opponents. But once in power, Hitler found them embarrassing as they undermined the order he was attempting to impose, as well as his international authority. The SA's leader, Ernst Röhm – a World War I veteran and early member of the Nazi Party – made enemies

among the Nazi leadership with his belief that a 'second revolution' was required to complete what the Nazis begun, and his desire to take control of the German military. His homosexuality, and that of other SA officers, was also used as proof of the SA's debauchery.

Despite Hitler's reluctance to take action against Röhm due to their friendship (Röhm even addressed him as 'Adolf' rather than '*mein Führer*'), pressure mounted. When dossiers of falsified information were compiled suggesting Röhm was plotting a coup, Hitler decided to purge the Nazi Party.

#### OPERATION HUMMINGBIRD

From 30 June to 2 July, hundreds of the SA were arrested or shot across the country as part of Operation Hummingbird. The killings were carried out by the *Schutzstaffel* (the

SS, responsible for the Nazis' most horrific acts in World War II) and the secret police, the Gestapo. Röhm was arrested personally by Hitler while still in his hotel bed. He was later executed in prison. Hitler took advantage of the carnage to wipe out other opponents, including leading Communists, prominent politicians and even the previous Chancellor, Kurt von Schleicher, and his wife.

The Night of the Long Knives, as the purge became known, was a total success. Hitler, who was even congratulated by some for his decisive action, emerged as the "supreme judge of the German people". He was above the law and had the power to remove anyone who threatened him. His only remaining obstacle was von Hindenburg, but when he died a month later, Hitler pronounced himself *Führer* of Germany. ◎



**"In this hour, I was responsible for the fate of the German people, and thereby I became the supreme judge of the German people."**

Adolf Hitler, speaking in a national broadcast, 13 July 1934



## THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

The Royal Navy's humiliating defeat at **Medway**

# 1667 DARING DUTCH RAID SCUPPERS THE ENGLISH FLEET

*While peace was being negotiated, Dutch ships sailed deep into English territory to win an audacious victory...*

**T**he English and Dutch were at war in 1667 – although that was hardly unusual. From 1652–74, the two nations were constantly at each other's throats, fighting for control over the sea. Whoever owned the waters owned the trade routes.

This, the Second Anglo-Dutch War, lasted two years, before grinding to a halt. The English held a crucial advantage after a victory in August 1666, but the Great Fire of London and a severe plague outbreak had left the country's coffers depleted. With his subjects demoralised, King Charles II sued for peace and was confident of negotiating some flattering terms. But as he played for time, the Dutch navy looked to change the terms of the treaty – with a bold attack that the English didn't see coming.

### RIVER DEFENCES

With the treasury unable to provide any money for its upkeep, the bulk of the English

fleet was laid up at Chatham Dockyard in Kent, the heartland of the navy. The docks were presumed safe as they were located miles inland, and the only waterway to them was the winding River Medway. The unfinished fort at Sheerness, where the Medway meets the sea, was considered ample protection. Even with poorly provisioned forts beyond that, the river had thick chains that could be raised to stop any ship, and there were always look-outs, making that the idea of attacking Chatham all but inconceivable.

Yet that was exactly the plan hatched by Grand Pensionary Johan de Witt, the leading politician of the Dutch Republic. Under the command of

the respected Lieutenant-Admiral Michiel de Ruyter, a Dutch contingent of 62 frigates, 15 small ships and 12 fireships – altogether carrying some 1,500 men – set sail for England on 4 June.

### CONFUSION AND CHAOS

The Dutch fleet then divided into three squadrons to confuse the English – a plan that worked better than they could have hoped. Despite spies spotting the ships on 6 June, no defensive measures were taken, as no one was sure where they intended



**TROPHY OF WAR**  
*After its capture, HMS Royal Charles became a tourist attraction in the Dutch Republic*



**“Thus in all things, in wisdom, courage, force, knowledge of our own streams, and success, the Dutch have the best of us, and do end the war with victory.”**

*An extract from the diary of Samuel Pepys, who was secretary of the Navy Board at the time of the raid*

to attack. It wasn't until 9 June, when 30 ships were seen near Sheerness, that Commissioner Peter Pett took action but, as many of the crews at Chatham had been discharged (there was no money to pay them), only three ships guarded the Medway.

Late on 10 June, while the militia was mobilised around London, Charles II dispatched Admiral George Monck, Duke of Albemarle, to supervise defences at Chatham. When he arrived, the docks were in chaos. Men and sloops were missing as they were



### FLIP-FLOPPING

The Royal Charles was originally named Naseby – after a Parliamentarian victory in the British Civil Wars. It was rebranded after the **Restoration in 1660**, and used to sail Charles II back to England.

### OBEYING ORDERS

When Dutch officers were informed of the plan, many objected, saying it was too risky. Michiel de Ruyter, in command of the raid, is reported as only saying, **"Orders are orders"**.



**DUTCH MASTER**  
Michiel de Ruyter  
is one of the  
most respected  
naval officers in  
Dutch history

being used to transport Pett's personal belongings, munitions were low, and the chain across the Medway was undefended. At the same time, 800 Dutch marines had landed and were already capturing the fort at Sheerness. Albemarle ordered small ships to be deliberately sunk to block the river, but they failed to stop the Dutch advance. In a remarkable feat of seamanship, the Dutch slowly sailed up the meandering Medway, navigating the shallow shoals – often having to wait for the tide to rise – before hitting any further resistance on 12 June.

The English 42-gun frigate *Unity* was seized and the chain was severed. But worse was to come for English pride when the reduced crew of the fleet's flagship, HMS *Royal Charles*, fled, leaving the 80-gunner

to be captured as a prize. The Dutch continued on their way to Chatham, expertly dodging Albemarle's hastily positioned shore defences. Using their fireships, the Dutch torched three of England's largest vessels, as well as a host of smaller ones. Crews surrendered without a fight and several ships were scuttled by the English themselves – just to prevent the Dutch getting hold of them.

### BRUISED PRIDE

News of the raid sparked panic in London, with many people believing it to be a full-scale invasion. The Dutch, however, were far too shrewd to get greedy. When they saw that English defence was, finally, hardening, they cut and run. On 14 June, they withdrew from the Medway,

leaving Chatham Dockyard in tact, but towing the *Royal Charles* and *Unity* as trophies.

It was a humiliating defeat for the English, and compelled Charles to accept a peace that suited the Dutch. With some of its best ships lost or damaged, the navy was in disarray, the losses totalling £200,000 (over £16 million today). However, the raid on the Medway gave impetus

to the building of a new and better navy. In fact, it has been argued that this embarrassing episode laid the foundations of Britain's naval supremacy in the centuries to come. ☺



### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

To what extent has the raid on the Medway been forgotten by British history?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

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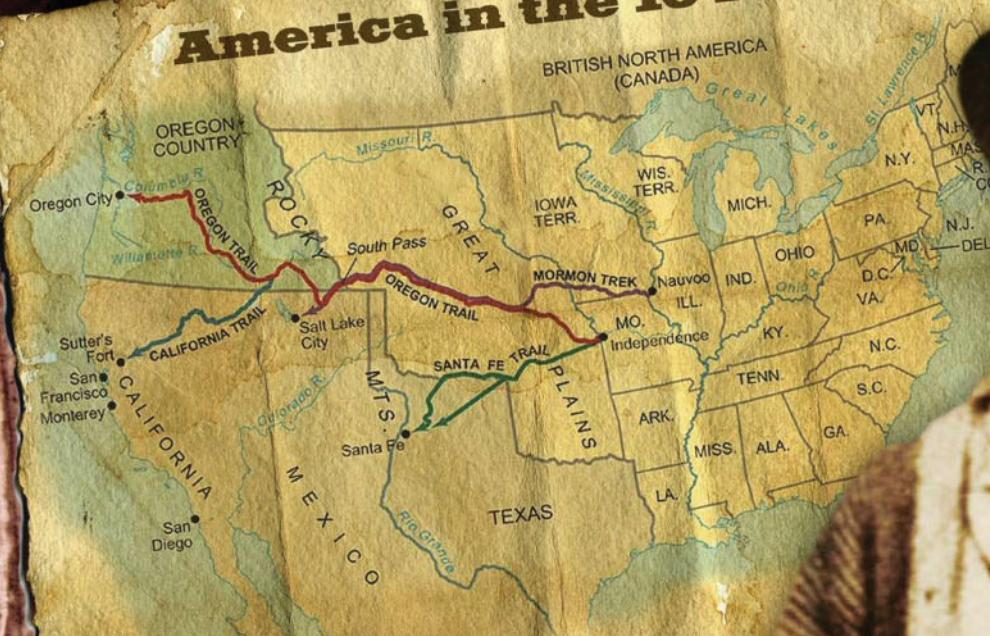
**HISTORY**  
REVEALED



## THE BIG STORY THE WILD WEST



### America in the 1840s



#### STUFF OF LEGENDS

The Old West was full of icons, from gun-slinging cowboys like Billy the Kid, to Native American chiefs, such as Sitting Bull

ALAMY X4

# THE WILD WEST

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

**T**hanks to a steady diet of Spaghetti Westerns and Hollywood hyperbole, the Wild West is often seen as a period populated by gun-slinging outlaws, card-playing cowboys, buxom bordello girls, boomtown saloon hounds, gold-chasing chancers, wagon train-raiding Native Americans and posse-leading sheriffs.

While colourful, real-life examples of all these elements can be found, the era has many more layers than the standard movie stereotypes allow for. Indeed, the

age was primarily defined not by the actions of a few infamous individuals, but by a powerful force that pulled people ever westward across the North American continent: the frontier.

As **Pat Kinsella** explains, the true narrative of the Wild West is a sprawling tale of conquest and survival, which follows the shifting frontier right up until it meets the Pacific Ocean. It's a rags-to-riches creation story about the birth of a new nation and culture, and the annihilation of several old ones.



## NOW READ ON...

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Find out more about the Old West p49



## THE BIG STORY THE WILD WEST

1

# THE WILD FRONTIER

*Some call it the Old West, some the Wild West and others, the Wild Frontier, but what exactly was it?*

**T**he images that 'Wild West' conjures up – cowboys, outlaws and gunfights at high noon – mostly originate from just a few decades in the 19th century. A male-dominated and largely lawless time, it has become an iconic part of American folklore, finding popular expression in its own enduring genre of books, movies and TV shows.

Values and ideas espoused in Westerns – concepts of liberty, justice (often administered through violence), self-reliance, independence, bravery, honour, and the right to bear arms and protect property – remain a powerful part of the modern American psyche.

But this is just one element of the American Old West, an era that refuses to be tidily filed between two chronological bookends and which began, confusingly, in the East. The West's wild origins are found two centuries earlier, on the opposite side of America, when English colonists on the Atlantic coast started to move into the interior, in search of

land, creating a fluid 'frontier' that crept west across the continent like an incoming tide.

French and Dutch settlers also set themselves up along the North Atlantic American coast, but the English displayed a greater hunger for land, having typically been denied access to property ownership back in Britain. This was in plentiful supply in the New World, just beyond the pale of the embryonic colonies.

While land-grabbing agriculturists gradually pushed the main frontier west, fleeter-footed mountain men went ahead, pursuing valuable beaver pelts along adventurous routes. Hunters and trappers pioneered paths across the Appalachian and Rocky mountain ranges, which would later see the mass migrations of those chasing gold or simply seeking a new life.

## LAND OF WAR

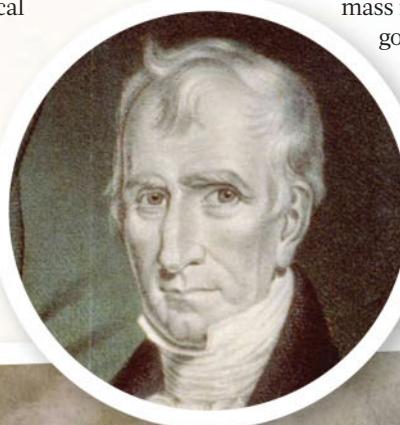
All this took place against a backdrop of constant conflict and shifting boundaries. Between 1688 and 1763, British and French colonies went

to war four times. This partly reflected wars between the parent powers in Europe, but tensions also mounted over control of the lucrative fur trade. Britain was the eventual victor, swiping much of Canada and territories east of the Mississippi from France.

Before the dust settled, however, the 13 battle-hardened British colonies on the Atlantic coast began to resent their tax-happy motherland, and started pushing for independence, which ultimately led to the American Revolutionary War (1775–83) and the birth of the United States.

Alarmed at the rapid expansion of the US after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase (see right), the British allied with tribes against the US during the War of 1812, promising to halt the westward advance of settlers by establishing a Native American state. They were outdone, however, by frontier militiamen under the leadership of commanders such as General Andrew Jackson and Governor William Henry Harrison.

By this time, the Lewis and Clark Expedition had reached the shores of the Pacific Ocean and the South Pass through the central Rockies had been discovered. Wagon wheels started



**BREAKING AWAY**  
RIGHT: Governor William Henry Harrison later became the ninth US President  
BELOW: At the Battle of Bunker Hill, the British won a pyrrhic victory over the American Revolutionists



## How Wild were the Westerns?



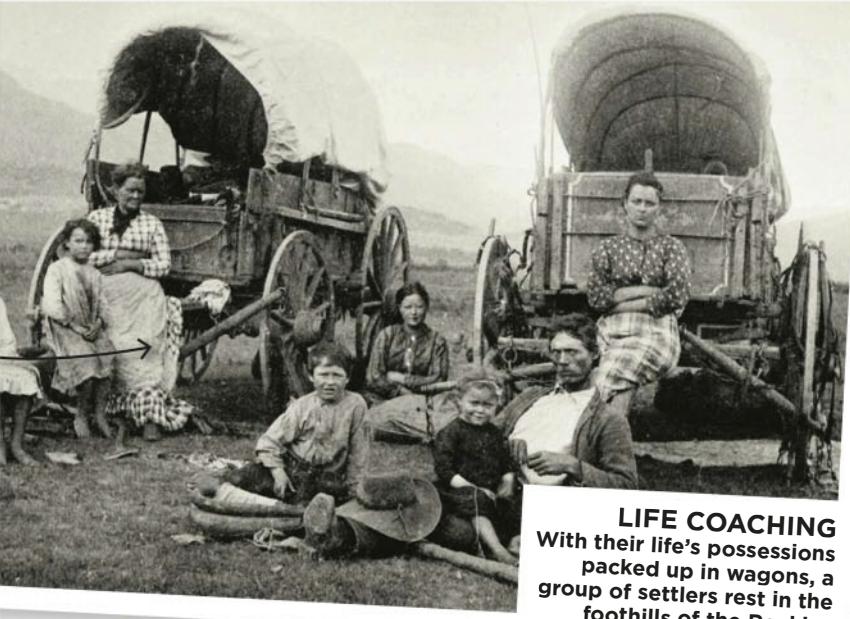
### ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST (1968)

A gritty vengeance tale set on the frontier as the railroad is being built. It's notable for its lead man (Henry Fonda) being a murderous villain, Frank, and giving lead female character, Jill McBain (Claudia Cardinale), a shady history as a prostitute. After McBain's family is killed by Frank, he's hunted down by bandit Cheyenne (Jason Robards) and a mysterious harmonica-playing, grudge-bearing gunman (Charles Bronson). The script is entirely fictional, but the subplot's portrayal of rapacious development in the Wild West has historical merit.



### SLOW GOING

The average speed of migrants trekking along the Oregon Trail in **Prairie Schooner** wagons was about **15 to 20 miles a day**.



**LIFE COACHING**  
With their life's possessions packed up in wagons, a group of settlers rest in the foothills of the Rockies

## "EVEN THE BLOODY AMERICAN CIVIL WAR DIDN'T HALT PROGRESS"

to roll in earnest and 'Manifest Destiny' – the concept that the US could and should span the entire continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific – looked like it would be self-fulfilling.

### BORDER DISPUTES

Further south, many more Americans migrated along routes like the Santa Fe Trail into newly independent Mexico, settling predominantly in Texas. When war flared, the Mexicans inflicted several defeats on the Texans – including the famous Battle of the Alamo – but a decisive win for the Americans at San Jacinto led to the creation of the independent Republic of Texas in 1836.

Nine years later, Texas joined the US, provoking a war with Mexico. Victory for the Americans led to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848. This, with subsequent purchases, saw land that now forms the states of California, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming

join the US, increasing the country's size by 20 per cent.

This rapid expansion of the US – opposed by many, including Abraham Lincoln – created a pronounced culture gap between the more established and genteel states on the Eastern seaboard and the rough and ready new territories to the west and south. This, together with the increasingly prickly matter of slavery and other issues, led to the creation of the Confederate States of America, and the outbreak of civil war in 1861.

Conflict – even one as bloody as the American Civil War – didn't halt progress for long, and within three years of the Union's victory, the First Transcontinental Railroad was built. Now, it was possible to travel by train from the East to the gold-rich cities on the Pacific coast.

The last mainland territories – Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico – didn't become states until the 20th century, but the frontier effectively ceased to exist from 1890, by which time the West's wildest days were behind it.

**ON THE RIGHT TRACK**  
The First Transcontinental Railroad, c1869, stretches across America



### EAGER BUYER

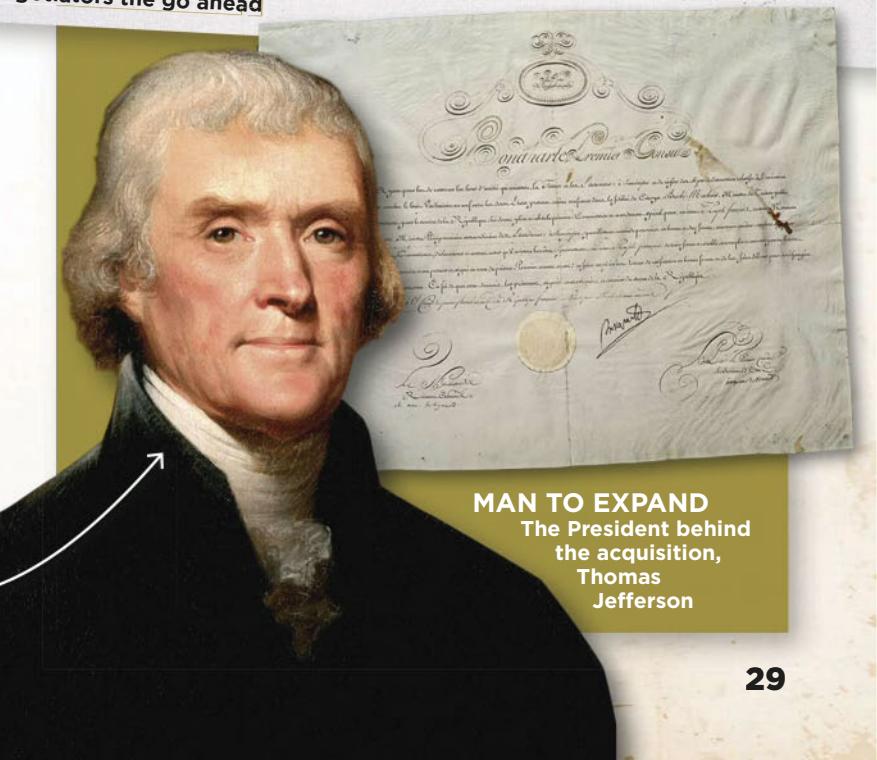
Like a giddy new-home owner, Jefferson was **keen to explore** the US's new lands. He even sent his private secretary on an expedition to explore them, before the treaty was finalised.

## DOUBLE OR NOTHING THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

By 1800, the western frontier had reached the Mississippi River. But sometimes the frontier did more than creep – sometimes it took enormous, bounding leaps. In December 1803, during the presidency of Thomas Jefferson, the US opportunistically acquired an almighty swathe of land from France, with the Louisiana Purchase.

This territory – known then as the Colony of Louisiana, which now forms all or part of 15 states, from Montana on the border of Canada in the north, to Louisiana on the Gulf of Mexico – had passed hands between France and Spain several times as the European powers squabbled over colonial possessions. In 1803, however, Napoleon – preparing to resume war against Britain – abruptly abandoned his New World ambitions. He didn't want to cede the land to Spain, but he was willing to sell it to the Americans, and thus one of the biggest land deals in history was done.

The territory encompassed 828,000 square miles of land and it cost the US \$11,250,000 (50 million francs), plus the cancellation of debts worth a further \$3,750,000 (18 million francs). For a total of \$15 million, the 20-year-old country doubled in size overnight.



**MAN TO EXPAND**  
The President behind the acquisition, Thomas Jefferson



## THE BIG STORY THE WILD WEST

2

# GO WEST

*After independence, the US's western frontier continued deeper into the wilderness*

**A**s immigration from Europe continued apace after the American Revolutionary War, the population was forced inland. They found a vast wilderness, inhabited by Native American tribes and full of furry animals, arable pastures and gold.

This was an unexplored universe pregnant with promise, where the horizon shimmered with potential adventure and half-guessed-at economic opportunities. Those with the guts to go west could find freedom and make a fortune – or die trying.

Soon, however, the frontier bounced into the Appalachians Mountains, where multiple ridgelines and dense forests conceded little easy access, and the few navigable passes that did exist were fiercely guarded by Native Americans.

The first to punch through this barrier were the mountain men – trappers and hunters in

hot pursuit of furs, who blazed new trails through the peaks and even managed to establish working relationships with some of the tribes they encountered.

### PAVING THE WAY

As early as 1775, the pioneer Daniel Boone opened up the Wilderness Road through the Cumberland Gap. Thousands of settlers on horseback would later follow this rough route, which remained prone to attacks, to travel from Virginia and North Carolina into Kentucky.

After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned the Lewis and Clark Expedition to pioneer a route through the Rocky Mountains to the west

## “THE HORIZON SHIMMERED WITH POTENTIAL”

coast. Eluding Spanish soldiers, and narrowly avoiding a violent confrontation with the Sioux nation, the expedition navigated the Missouri River to its headwaters, crossed the Continental Divide at the Lemhi Pass, and reached the Pacific shore via the Clearwater, Snake and Columbia Rivers in November 1805.

Seven years later, agents of the fur trade discovered a more practical route through the Rockies. John Astor, a German immigrant who made a fortune in fur, sent an expedition

### MYSTERY WOMAN

Little is known about Sacagawea, the **only female member** of Lewis and Clark's party. She was just a teenager at the time, but proved an invaluable interpreter.



**ADVENTUROUS DUO**  
The Lewis and Clark memorial  
at Fort Benton, Montana

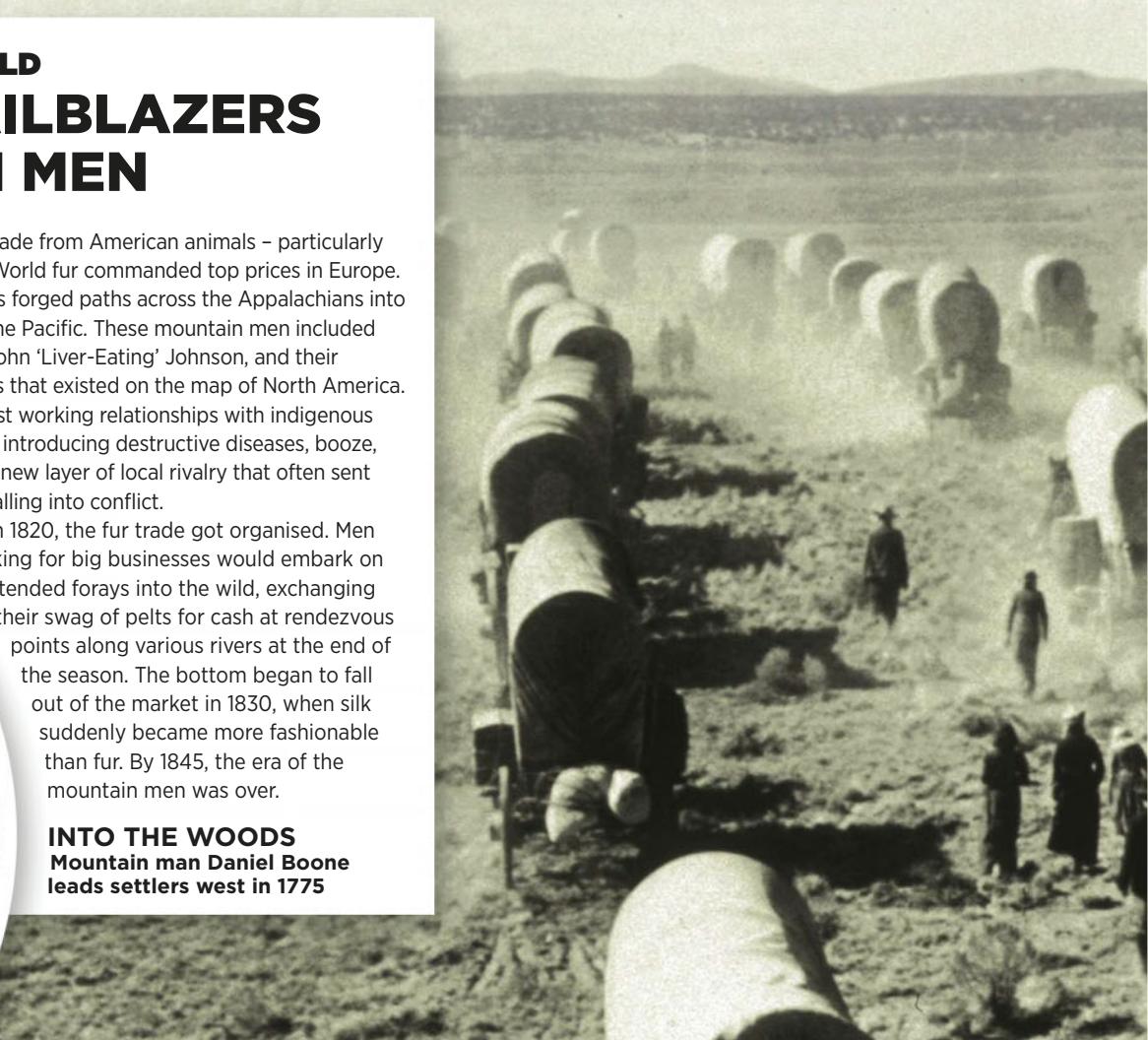
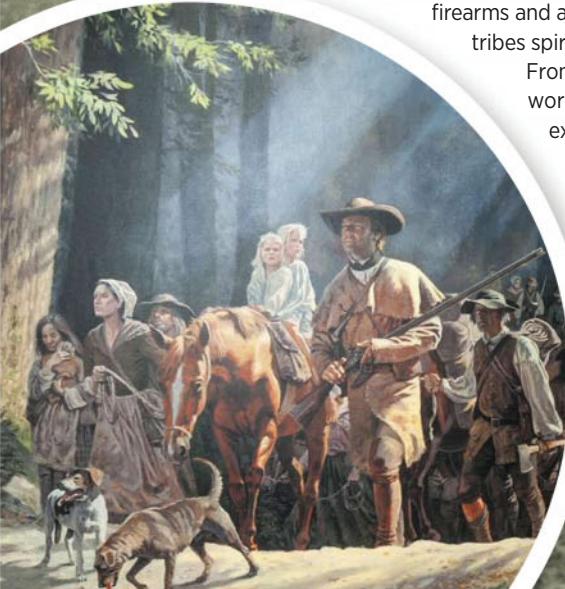
## FORTUNE FAVOURS THE BOLD TRAPPERS, TRAILBLAZERS AND MOUNTAIN MEN

In the 18th and early 19th centuries, garments made from American animals – particularly beavers – were the height of fashion, and New World fur commanded top prices in Europe. In pursuit of precious pelts, trappers and hunters forged paths across the Appalachians into the interior, then through the Rockies towards the Pacific. These mountain men included Jedediah Smith, Kit Carson, Daniel Boone and John ‘Liver-Eating’ Johnson, and their experience filled in the vast knowledge vacuums that existed on the map of North America.

They also established the first working relationships with indigenous people, while, sadly, introducing destructive diseases, booze, firearms and a new layer of local rivalry that often sent tribes spiralling into conflict.

From 1820, the fur trade got organised. Men working for big businesses would embark on extended forays into the wild, exchanging their swag of pelts for cash at rendezvous points along various rivers at the end of the season. The bottom began to fall out of the market in 1830, when silk suddenly became more fashionable than fur. By 1845, the era of the mountain men was over.

**INTO THE WOODS**  
Mountain man Daniel Boone leads settlers west in 1775



to blaze a more-reliable trail to Oregon. This initially failed, but on the return leg, members of the expedition discovered the South Pass.

Initially navigable only on foot or horseback, over the next two decades the resulting Oregon Trail was made suitable for wagons, and traffic steadily increased. By the mid-1830s, it is believed over 400,000 people had followed this main trail, which was later used as base for other off-shoots.

By the mid-1840s, groups began taking the California Trail, which branched off from the Oregon Trail in Idaho and led settlers (and, later, prospectors) along the Humboldt River through the hazardous Sierra Nevada mountain range into California.

Around the same time, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints started following the Mormon Trail from Nauvoo, Illinois (where their leader had been murdered) to Salt Lake Valley in Utah. These migrants included poor, newly arrived Europeans, who used handcarts to move their meagre belongings along the 1,300-mile trail.

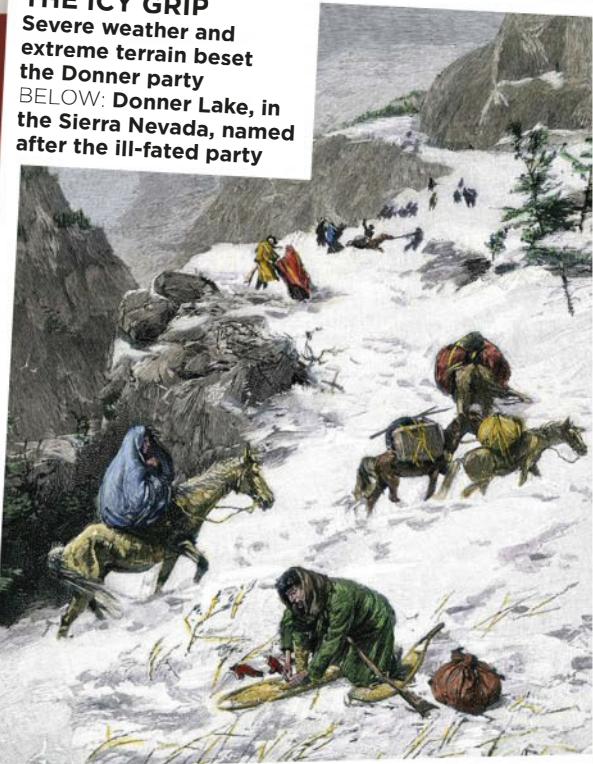
American wagon trains also rolled into the central south west of the continent, along the Santa Fe Trail from Missouri into New Mexico and Texas. Increasingly, however, these came under attack from Native American groups, angered at the competition for ever-depleting natural resources on which they depended. This became a threat for travellers following the Snake River Valley too, and those on the Bozeman Trail to the Montana gold fields.

## NIGHTMARE JOURNEY THE DONNER PARTY

Many people found happy, new lives out west but some migrations were proper horror stories. The Donner Party's experience is a particularly awful tale, which was widely and often luridly covered in the papers but, interestingly, did little to stem the flow of traffic. The Donner Party (named after a family who had a large presence in the group) set out from Illinois in April 1846, and were at the rear of the year's western exodus even before things started to go wrong. Initially, they followed the well-worn California Trail from Missouri, but were convinced by a man called Lansford Hastings to take a shortcut that he was promoting in his book *The Emigrants' Guide to Oregon and California*.

Hastings' route traversed the Wasatch Mountains and the Great Salt Lake Desert, and proved totally unsuitable for wagons and cattle. The author failed to guide the group through the hardest sections, as he'd promised, and by the time they rejoined the main trail, the group was at least a month behind. They were at the end of their tethers, too. One man was fatally stabbed in a fracas over tangled oxen, and the killer was ostracised from the party. Food was already running low, when they became snowbound in the Sierra Nevada for over four months. They descended into murder, madness and eventually cannibalism. A rescue was arranged in the end, but only 46 of the 87-strong party survived.

**THE ICY GRIP**  
Severe weather and extreme terrain beset the Donner party  
**BELow:** Donner Lake, in the Sierra Nevada, named after the ill-fated party



## How Wild were the Westerns?



500

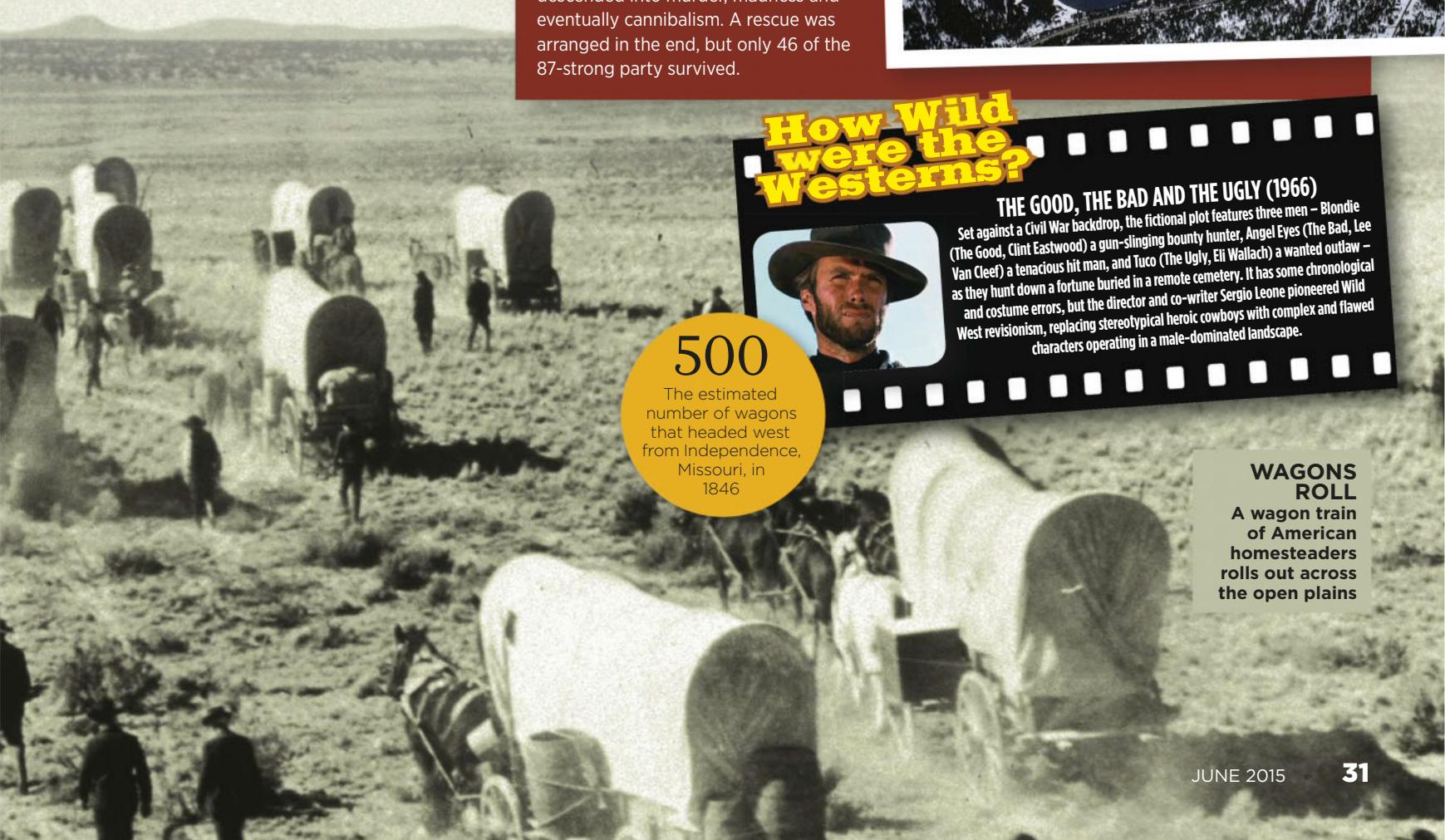
The estimated number of wagons that headed west from Independence, Missouri, in 1846

### THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY (1966)

Set against a Civil War backdrop, the fictional plot features three men – Blondie (The Good, Clint Eastwood) a gun-slinging bounty hunter, Angel Eyes (The Bad, Lee Van Cleef) a tenacious hit man, and Tuco (The Ugly, Eli Wallach) a wanted outlaw – as they hunt down a fortune buried in a remote cemetery. It has some chronological and costume errors, but the director and co-writer Sergio Leone pioneered Wild West revisionism, replacing stereotypical heroic cowboys with complex and flawed characters operating in a male-dominated landscape.

### WAGONS ROLL

A wagon train of American homesteaders rolls out across the open plains





## NATIVE MEETS NEW

*As the Europeans pushed west, so too did they push relations with the indigenous people of the plains*

**A**fter the arrival of Europeans in America, indigenous tribes variously allied with French, Dutch and English colonists in numerous conflicts, most of which flared around the fur trade. Bloody battles during the Beaver Wars in the mid-17th century pitted groups like the Iroquois (dominated by the Mohawk nation) and the Shawnee against one another, and drastically reshaped the complex tribal geography of the region.

The American Revolutionary War further splintered tribal allegiances, but once the US was born, and the impetuous young country's frontier began skidding rapidly westwards through ancestral lands, the conflicting cultures of the Native and the new Americans increasingly clashed head on.

While some mountain men managed to maintain strong relationships with individual tribes, indigenous resistance to American expansionism escalated throughout the era, and

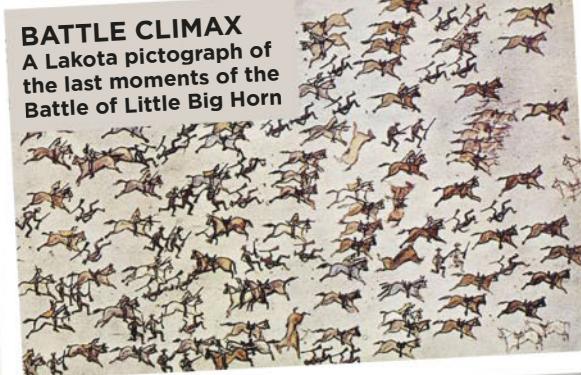
**100**  
The number of would-be settlers killed by Native Americans in 1784, along the Wilderness Road

violence was common. Native Americans attempted to stem the flow of migrants through mountain passes and often attacked wagon trains. On numerous occasions, outright warfare erupted with US forces (see *The Indian Wars*, right).

Under the presidency of former frontiersman Andrew Jackson, the 'Indian Removal Policy' began in the 1830s. In what became known as the Trail of Tears, thousands of Native Americans from over

20 tribes – including the 'Five Civilized Tribes' (Creek, Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Seminole) – were forced off their land (which was taken over by settlers) and relocated west, to Oklahoma.

This pattern was repeated throughout the period and across the continent. As the frontier shifted relentlessly towards the setting Sun, more land was fenced in and farmed. Plains bison, the mainstay of the Native American diet, was pushed to the brink of extinction by European agricultural practices, commercial



**BATTLE CLIMAX**  
A Lakota pictograph of the last moments of the Battle of Little Big Horn

hunting and mass-killing campaigns – a calculated form of scorched-earth warfare. Even the new railroad companies wanted wild bison herds eradicated, because they were a major hazard to trains.

Battered by new diseases, shocked by modern fighting techniques and technology, and faced with the severe depletion of their main food source, millennia-old Native American nations were, in the space of a century, decimated and corralled into settlements. But they didn't surrender without a fight.



**WIPE OUT**  
It's thought some **50 million bison** were slaughtered by 19th-century settlers, for food, sport and to deprive the Native Americans of the essential resource.

**"MASS-KILLING CAMPAIGNS  
WERE A CALCULATED  
FORM OF SCORCHED-  
EARTH WARFARE"**

**FULL PELT**  
Frontiersman Charles Rath sits on a pile of some 40,000 buffalo hides in Dodge City, Kansas, 1878

**HOME AGAIN**  
Taken after his return to America, this c1881 image is one of the earliest photos of Sitting Bull

## SIOUX HERO SITTING BULL

One of the West's most celebrated characters, Sitting Bull was a holy man and leader of the Hunkpapa Lakota group, one of seven Sioux tribes. Originally called Jumping Badger, at 14 he earned his father's name (and iconic eagle's feather) for an audacious act of courage during a raid on a rival tribe.

Sitting Bull's encounters with American settlers and troops began with the defence of a village besieged by soldiers in the aftermath of the Dakota War in 1862. Later, he led attacks on wagons and forts along the upper Missouri River, as well as in support of another Sioux warrior, Red Cloud, who led a campaign to keep control of the Powder River in Montana, after an influx of American prospectors.

After Red Cloud agreed to the Treaty of Fort Laramie, which saw much of the Lakota's traditional territory – including the Powder River region and Black Hills – become the Great Sioux Reservation, Sitting Bull refused to live inside the reserve.

When, in 1871, the Northern Pacific Railway Company began surveying Hunkpapa hunting grounds, Sitting Bull twice chased them off. However, in 1874, Lieutenant Colonel George Custer announced that the Black Hills contained gold, prompting a rush of prospectors and a spike in tensions.

In 1875, the US government decreed all Sioux had to reside within the reservation, and the following year Custer was dispatched to bring in 'hostile' groups still living out on the plains. Sitting Bull, now an important leader, had amassed a large group at a camp on the Little Big Horn River. He'd spoken of a vision, in which his warriors had routed an attack force of US soldiers.

Custer, unaware that he faced as many as 2,000 fired-up warriors, led an advance party of the 7th Cavalry into the camp. They were repelled and, during a counter attack involving legendary Sioux fighter Crazy Horse, the soldiers were wiped out.

The US government angrily flooded the area with troops, but Sitting Bull escaped to Canada. Four years later he returned to the US and surrendered. Initially held as a prisoner of war, after 20 months he was transferred to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation under the authority of Native American Agent James McLaughlin.

Years later, with McLaughlin's permission, Sitting Bull went on tour with Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, and befriended sharp-shooting cowgirl Annie Oakley, who he came to regard as a daughter.

In 1890, however, McLaughlin became suspicious that Sitting Bull was about to abscond with a Native American religious group called the Ghost Dancers, and ordered police to bring him in. An altercation occurred during his arrest, and Sitting Bull was fatally shot.

## How Wild were the Westerns?



### DANCES WITH WOLVES (1990)

During the Civil War, Lieutenant John Dunbar (Kevin Costner), posted to a remote frontier fort, makes contact with and is ultimately accepted by a Lakota (Sioux) tribe. Reversing Hollywood stereotypes, the film has Lakota characters speaking their own language and portrays them sympathetically, while casting 'whitefaces' historically perfect – for instance, Pawnee tribe members are shown as violent aggressors, when actually they were more often victims of the warlike Sioux.

## THE FIGHT FOR THE PLAINS THE INDIAN WARS

Ranging from skirmishes and guerilla campaigns to all-out battles, over 40 'Indian Wars' erupted during the period, causing the deaths of around 19,000 US settlers and soldiers, and over 60,000 Native Americans.

Early engagements, like the Cherokee Wars, saw nascent settlements attacked in Tennessee, Virginia, Carolina, Georgia and Kentucky. A pan-tribal confederacy inflicted severe losses on President Washington's armies during the Northwest Indian War, but subsequent defeats and the Treaty of Greenville in 1795, saw Ohio and part of Indiana ceded to the US.

During the War of 1812, a coalition of Native American tribes allied with Britain to resist the expanding frontier. American militiamen prevailed, however, winning a decisive victory at

the Battle of the Thames in 1813, where influential Shawnee leader Tecumseh was killed. Resistance to the subsequent Indian Removal Policy saw the Black Hawk War (1832), the Creek War (1836) and Second Seminole War (1835–42), but there was no escaping the Trail of Tears.

Later engagements further west saw more significant losses inflicted on the Americans. During the Dakota War (1862), several hundred settlers and soldiers were killed in Minnesota. Casualties were also high during the Snake War (1864–68), when US soldiers engaged Paiute, Bannock and Shoshone warriors who'd begun attacking migrants and miners passing through Snake River valley.

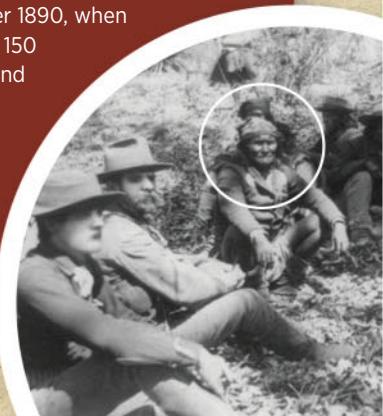
Red Cloud's War (1866–68), waged by the Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho nations to destroy the newly-blazed Bozeman Trail along the Powder River, ended in temporary victory for the Native Americans, but the most famous upset was the 1875 Battle of Little Big Horn (see Sitting Bull, above).

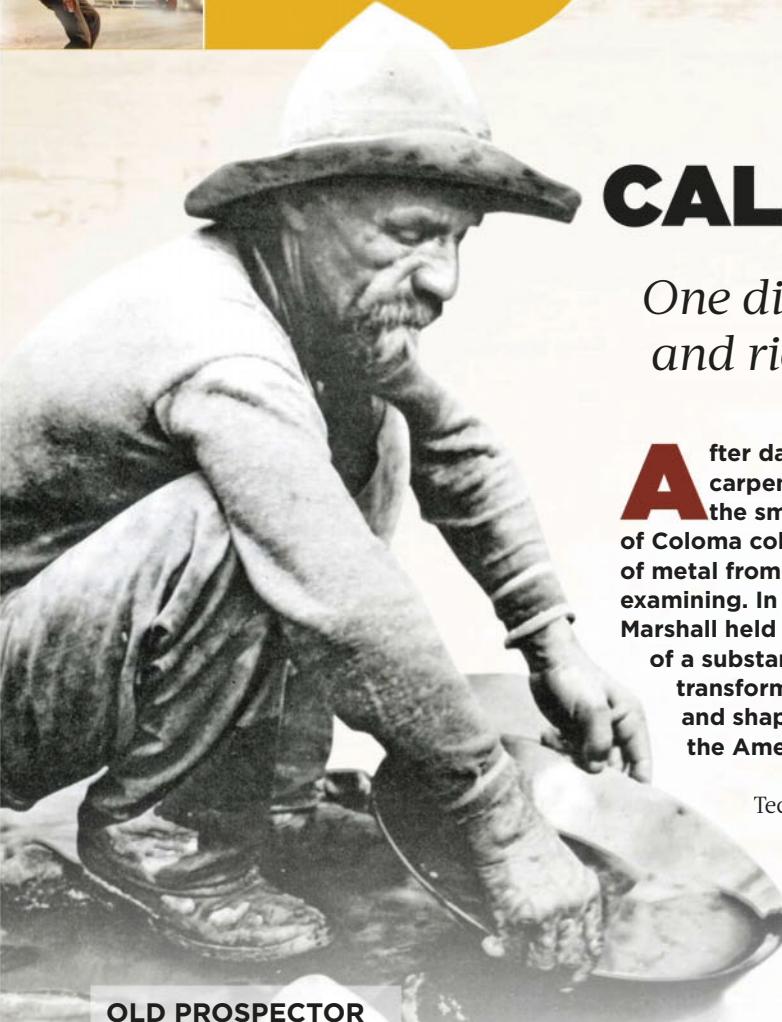
Triggers for these conflicts varied. The Apache Wars began when gold miners surged into the

Santa Rita Mountains in Arizona in 1849, and raged on and off until tribe leader Geronimo surrendered in 1886, while the Modoc War (1872–73) in Oregon, broke out when Captain Jack, a Modoc chief, left a reservation and fought a sustained campaign resisting resettlement. The Comanche, much feared for raids on wagon trains travelling the Santa Fe Trail, responded to the depletion of buffalo by attacking a group of hunters in 1874, which led to the Red River War.

All, however, ultimately ended the same way – defeat and subjugation for the Native Americans. The wars came to an end with a typically tragic event, the Wounded Knee Massacre in December 1890, when the 7th Cavalry killed 150 Sioux men, women, and children.

**PEACE TALKS**  
Apache leader Geronimo meets US troops



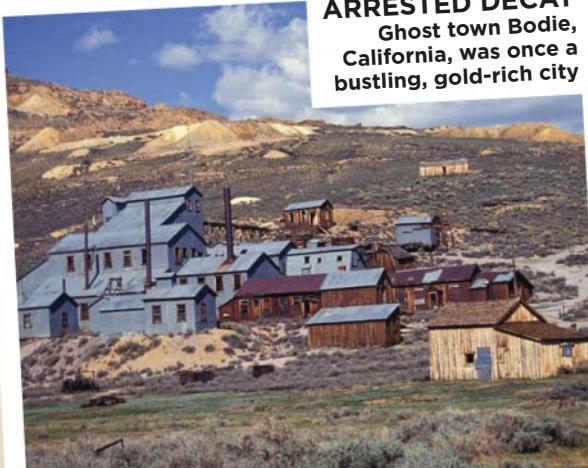


**OLD PROSPECTOR**  
Panning for gold in the 1860s was back-breaking, time-consuming work

## GOLDEN YEARS BOOMTOWNS

In 1846, San Francisco was a small settlement with about 200 residents. By 1852, it was teeming with over 36,000 people. Many new arrivals lived in ad-hoc accommodation, including on the decks of ships that had arrived loaded with would-be prospectors, and then became stranded in the harbour when the crew deserted to try their luck in the gold fields.

In the rapidly booming city – without any infrastructure or public buildings to deal with the sudden influx of immigrants from around the world – these abandoned boats



**ARRESTED DECAY**  
Ghost town Bodie, California, was once a bustling, gold-rich city

# CALIFORNIA DREAMING

*One discovery made California a land of hope and riches, and the centre of the world's gaze*

**A**fter dawn on 24 January 1848, a carpenter working on a sawmill in the small Californian settlement of Coloma collected some shiny flecks of metal from the channel he was examining. In his hands, James Marshall held a few ounces of a substance that would transform the fortunes and shape the future of the American West: gold.

Technically he was on Mexican territory, but two weeks later, under the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexico-American War, California joined the US. Soon it was the most-talked-about location on the globe, and people were sailing oceans, paddling rivers,

were used to house shops, warehouses, pubs and even a jail. On the back of its extraordinary population explosion, San Francisco became a consolidated city-county as early as 1856, completely eclipsing neighbouring cities.

The Barbary Coast part of the city witnessed the shadier side of the gold rush, with prospectors spending their newfound fortunes in brothels and gaming houses. By the 1850s – when companies like Wells Fargo had set up shop, the mint was built and the US military had constructed fortifications on Alcatraz Island and Fort Point – San Francisco's future looked more respectable. The 1859, discovery of silver in Nevada kept the good times rolling in the city, which had, by then, become a major port.

San Fran was the largest and most enduring of the boomtowns to sprout from gold-rich soil of California in the second half of the 19th century, but migrant miners set up many more mini metropolises in the mountains and deserts of the Wild West – most of which burned brightly for a few years before fading into ghost towns when the gilded seams ran out.

These include Belleville in the San Bernardino Mountains, which

traversing mountains, hiking through jungles and driving wagons across deserts to get there.

Marshall made nothing from his find – in fact, he and the sawmill owner lost money, as workers deserted to hunt gold. Others seized the glittering opportunity.

Newspaper publisher Samuel Brannan purchased every pick, shovel and pan he could, opened a store selling them at inflated prices and ran around San Francisco with a vial of gold exclaiming "Gold! Gold from the American River!"

He made \$36,000 in nine weeks, and became a multi-millionaire.

The first fortune hunters arrived from Oregon, but soon prospectors flocked in from places like the Sandwich Islands, Mexico, Peru and



**DROP AND RUN**  
Deserted mining equipment, left behind at Bodie when the owners swiftly moved on

grew suddenly around the discovery of gold in early 1860, and boomed for a decade.

To the east of the Sierra Nevada mountains, Bodie was a classic boomtown. Its population swelled dramatically from a few hundred to around 7,000 within two years of the Standard Company discovering a deposit of gold-bearing ore in 1876. Gold worth nearly \$34 million was extracted from Bodie's mines but, in the 1880s, many prospectors moved on to try their luck in places like Tombstone, Arizona. By 1920, only 120 people called the former-city home. Now preserved, Bodie is presented as an authentic Wild West ghost town.

Chile. Nicknamed 'Argonauts', after the golden-fleece chasing heroes of Greek mythology, around 6,000 arrived in 1848.

## FORTY-NINERS

The real rush began when incoming waves of 'forty-niners' started breaking on the beaches in 1849. No easy route existed to reach California, yet thousands arrived from Australia, China, Asia and Europe. They sailed around Cape Horn, or landed on Panama's east coast, crossing the jungle-clad isthmus and boarding boats on the Pacific side. Others travelled overland, up through Mexico or across the US via the California Trail.

Some 90,000 newcomers arrived during 1849, up to 300,000 by 1855. Many disappeared in the lawless society they found, where infrastructure and policing were non-existent – claims were staked on a first-come basis and disputes were usually resolved with violence.

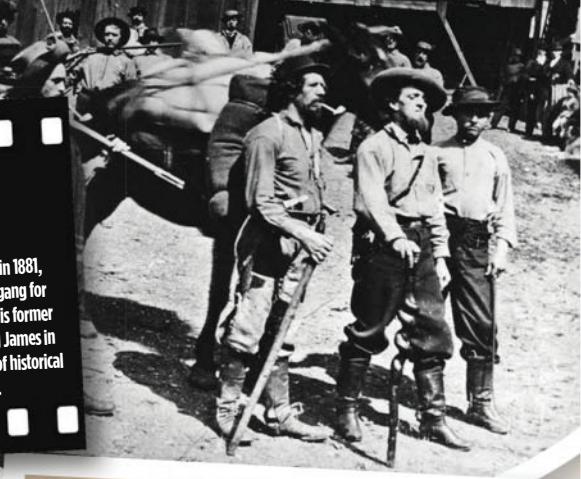
Some struck lucky and became extremely wealthy. Others went home penniless. When the rush had run its course, the biggest winners proved to be those operating businesses peripheral to the mines, including brothels and saloons.

## How Wild were the Westerns?



### THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES BY THE COWARD ROBERT FORD (2007)

The movie opens with a scene-setting train robbery in Blue Cut, Missouri, in 1881, where Jesse James (Brad Pitt) is revealed as a violent thug. It follows the gang for seven months until young Robert Ford (Casey Affleck), disillusioned with his former idol, seizes the moment to make \$10,000 and a name for himself, shooting James in the back of the head. Excellently researched and scripted with high degree of historical accuracy, James, it makes clear, was more psychopath than hero.



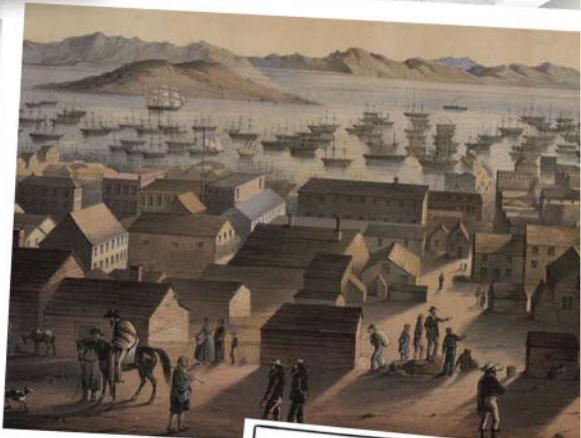
## "POLICING WAS NON-EXISTENT AND DISPUTES WERE USUALLY RESOLVED WITH VIOLENCE"

Native Americans were the biggest losers. Thousands died from diseases brought in on the international tide, and they suffered dreadful attacks from prospectors who commonly

considered them sub-human savages – a threat to be exploited or destroyed. Though California was a free state, settlers were allowed to capture and use indigenous women and children as bonded workers. Attacks by tribes on encroaching miners

resulted in vengeance being wrought on whole villages, and some gold rush-era Californian communities offered bounties for Native American scalps.

It was over for small-time diggers by 1855, and larger mining companies were left to extract the remaining gold with better technology. California was flush with cash, though, and San Francisco was booming.



### CITY OF GOLD

TOP: Miners head out to the gold fields

ABOVE: San Francisco begins to boom, c1850  
RIGHT: A manual for prospective prospectors, published in New York in 1848 – the year before the forty-niner influx

THE EMIGRANT'S GUIDE TO THE GOLD MINES  
THREE WEEKS IN THE GOLD MINES  
ADVENTURES WITH THE GOLD DIGGERS OF CALIFORNIA  
IN AUGUST, 1848;



TOGETHER WITH  
ADVICE TO EMIGRANTS,  
WITH FULL INSTRUCTIONS UPON THE BEST METHOD OF GETTING  
THERE, LIVING EXPENSES, ETC., ETC., AND A  
COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY,  
WITH A MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS.  
BY HENRY L. SIMPSON,  
OF THE NEW YORK VARIETIES,  
JOYCE & CO., 40 ANN STREET,  
NEW YORK:  
1848.



TURN OVER TO SEE  
HOW THESE MEN  
GOT THEIR GOLD

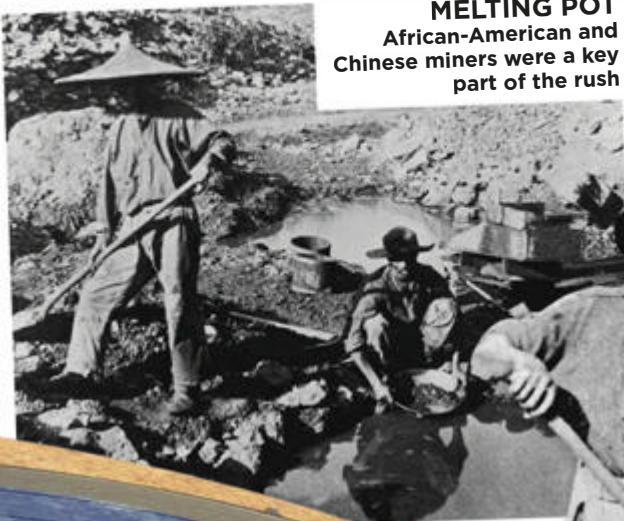
**DIRTY WORK**  
Prospectors pose at a sluice box, as they filter through the Californian soil for precious ore

# GOLD HUNTING

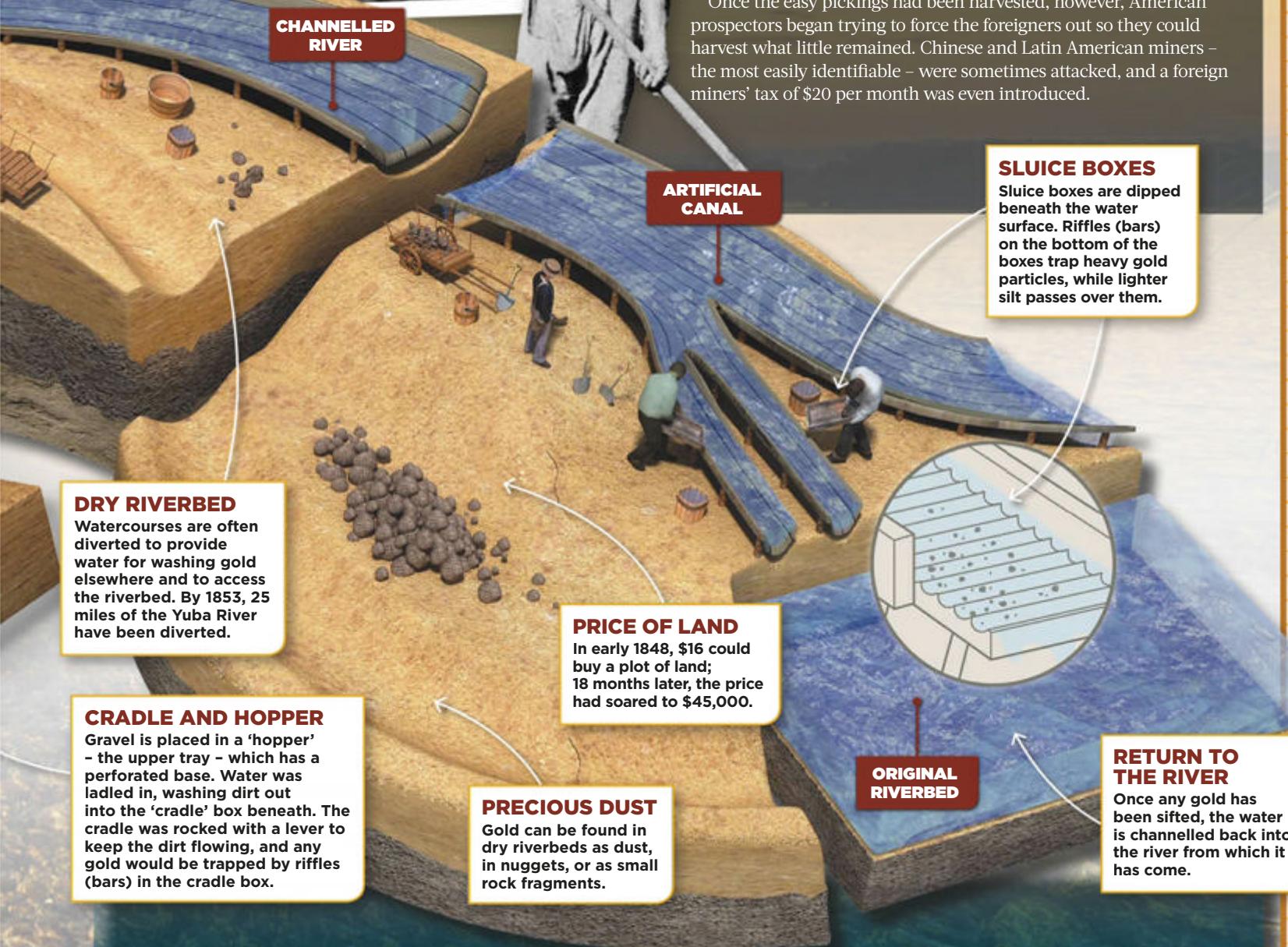
How did the hopeful prospectors extract the riches?

The newly arrived fortune hunters used a variety of processes to extract the precious element from the ground. Its golden particles were waiting to be pulled from rocks and gravel alongside and in the river, as well as in its silty waters, using shovels, pans and hoppers. The techniques adopted weren't all that mattered, though. These gold diggers needed a healthy dose of luck to catch their gilded treasure.





**MELTING POT**  
African-American and  
Chinese miners were a key  
part of the rush



## FROM STRIKE TO STATE

In the space of just a few years, California was transformed from a backwater to one of the most populous states in the Union – all thanks to gold...

### 1848

On the morning of 24 January, while James Marshall was building a sawmill for his employer, he discovered gold on the banks of the Sacramento River. They tried to keep the find quiet but, by summer, thousands of miners were flocking to the area to try their luck.

### 1850

Thanks largely to the gold rush, California became the 31st state of the Union. Slavery was abolished because of the large influx of immigrants and the fear that it would reduce workers' salaries. However, the Fugitive Slave Act ruled that runaway slaves had to be returned to their owners.

### 1852

Within four years, surface deposits of gold were exhausted. Complex technology was now required to extract it, and the process became industrialised – miners became workers. The state's success was secured and the 1852 census recorded a population of 260,949.



# ROLL OUT THE RAILS

*Connecting the east coast and the Wild West, the railroad forever changed the American landscape*

The transcontinental railroad had been much discussed since the Californian gold rush, but realisation of this epic project was riddled with politics and problems. Some 400,000 square miles of territory was explored by the Pacific Railroad Survey teams in 1853-55, yet arguments raged over the route the railway should take, and where the eastern terminus should be.

ART ARCHIVE XI, ALAMY XI, GETTY X7

The Gadsden Purchase of 1853, which saw the US acquire Arizona and New Mexico for \$10 million, was conducted primarily to facilitate a southern railway route, but it wasn't until the Pacific Railroad Acts were passed in 1862 and 1864 that progress could be made. For

Unionists, the Civil War made a compelling case for a country-spanning project – to unify the states – but the conflict delayed construction for several years.

Eventually, a central route was chosen, and two independent companies began laying tracks: the Union Pacific Railroad from the Missouri River in the east, starting in Iowa, and the Central Pacific Railroad from California in the west. The colossal cost (estimated at over \$100 million in 1860 value) was covered by the issuing of US government bonds.

Civil War veterans and Irish immigrants (many escaping the potato famine) were recruited to do the Union Pacific's grunt work, while many Chinese labourers were employed to take the line through the Sierra Nevada and

across the Nevada and Utah deserts.

On the great plains, the Union Pacific encountered resistance from Native Americans. They saw the railroad as an encroachment on their land and were furious at the company's policy of massacring bison, the tribes' main food source, because of the dangers the animals presented to trains.

## GOLDEN SPIKE

On 10 May 1869, the two lines met at Promontory, Utah, where a symbolic 'Golden Spike' was driven home to connect them. Despite the pomp and ceremony, the railway only actually went from Omaha, Nebraska to Sacramento, California, but additional bridges and connections were completed over the following years to genuinely link

400

The approximate number of horses used by the Pony Express service.

## How Wild were the Westerns?



### BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID (1969)

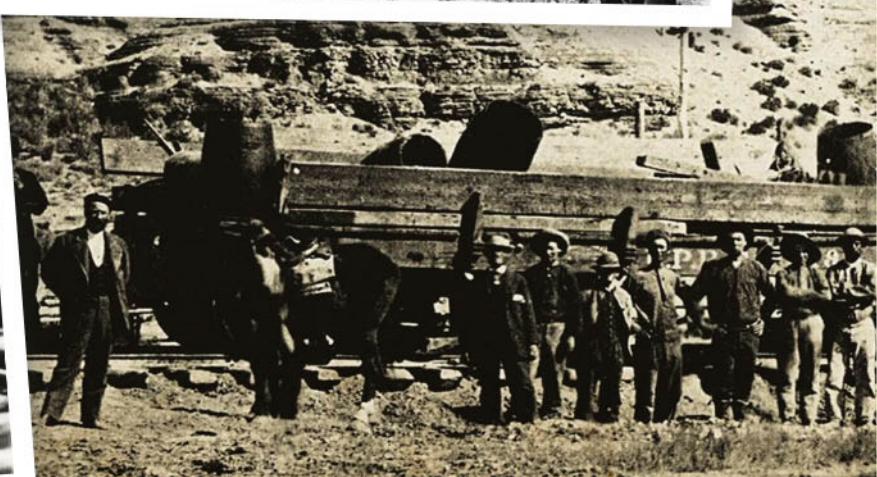
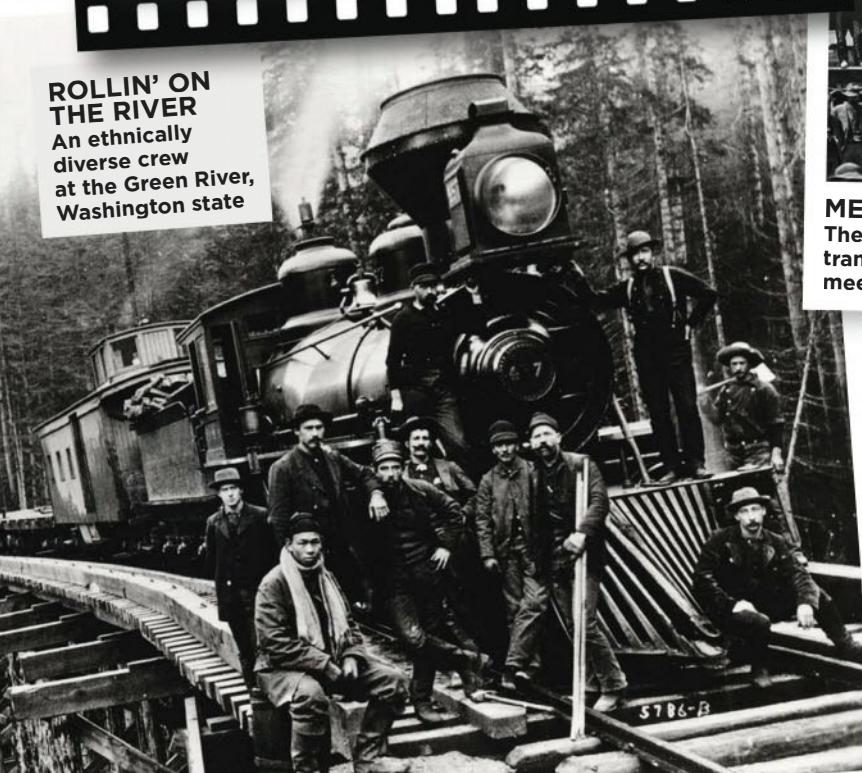
A playful romp through the Wild West and down into Bolivia, where Butch (Paul Newman) and Sundance (Robert Redford) are variously shown robbing trains, holding up banks and being chased by a posse from the Pinkerton Detective Agency. The two good-natured heroes are portrayed sympathetically, avoiding violence when possible, until they're finally cornered and killed in a hail of gunfire. Sounds implausible, but the essentials are all true, with some chronological liberties taken.

ROLLIN' ON THE RIVER  
An ethnically diverse crew at the Green River, Washington state

## "THE RAILWAY BROUGHT A DEGREE OF ORDER TO THE WEST"



MEET IN THE MIDDLE  
The two sides of the transcontinental railway meet in 1869



## CEASELESS EXPANSE

Railroad crew carve their way through the epic terrain of the American Southwest



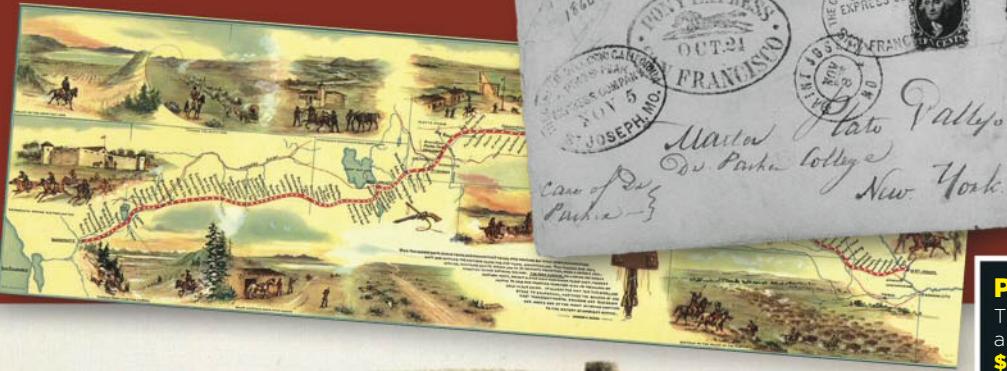
the Atlantic and Pacific. On 4 June 1876, the Transcontinental Express arrived in San Francisco via the First Transcontinental Railroad, just 83 hours and 39 minutes after leaving New York.

Much has been made of the civilising effect the railroad had on the wilder side of the US. For residents of San Francisco and Sacramento at least, the urbane east coast cities were no longer far-distant, abstract concepts, they were reachable within a few comparatively comfortable and safe days' travel.

As railways had done elsewhere in the world, the Transcontinental brought a degree of order and organisation. Yet, as Butch and Sundance would prove with their Union Pacific train robbing exploits two decades later, it also presented the really Wild Bunch with a new way to show that the West was far from tamed.

## CROSS CONTINENT

RIGHT: The route of the ten-day service  
CENTRE: A note sent to New York by Pony Express  
FAR RIGHT: An 1861 New York advert  
ABOVE: Express rider William Cody, aka 'Buffalo Bill'



## STEED AND DELIVER THE PONY EXPRESS

Although it only operated for 18 months, the Pony Express is a powerful icon of the Wild West. Launched on 3 April 1860, the service promised to deliver letters between St Joseph, Missouri and Sacramento, California in just ten days. To do so, riders would gallop from one Pony Express station to the next, where they changed horses. There were around 190 stations across the continent, each about ten miles apart, as this was thought to be the furthest a horse could travel at top speed.

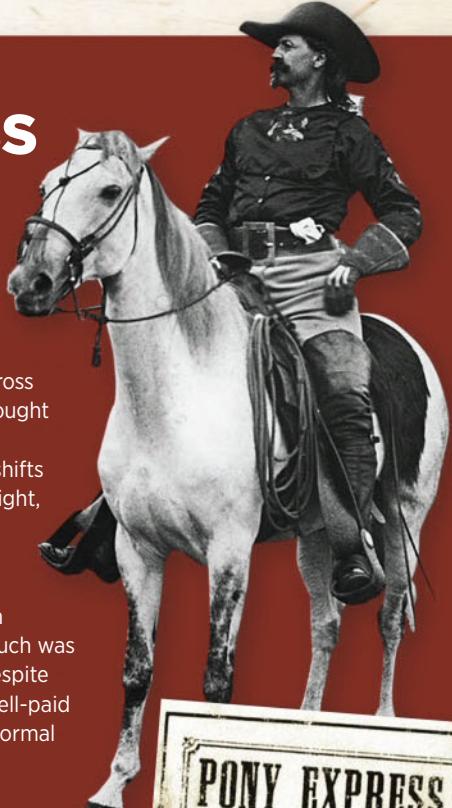
Riders, typically lightweight teenage boys, would do shifts of 75 to 100 miles. They were required to ride day and night, and faced numerous perils along the 1,900-mile route, which crossed the Great Plains and several mountain ranges, including the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada.

Pony Express riders carried a water bottle, mail pouch (called a mochila) and a gun. To their employers, the pouch was more important than the life of the rider or his horse. Despite the dangers and discomforts, it was a prestigious and well-paid job, with boys earning \$100 a month (more than triple normal wages), and positions were highly sought after.

Occasionally riders came under attack from Native Americans. One 14-year-old boy, Billy Tate, took out seven of his Paiute pursuers before succumbing to multiple arrow wounds. Another lad, Robert 'Pony Bob' Haslam, completed a 120-mile journey, to deliver Abraham Lincoln's inaugural address, despite having been shot through the jaw with an arrow and losing three teeth.

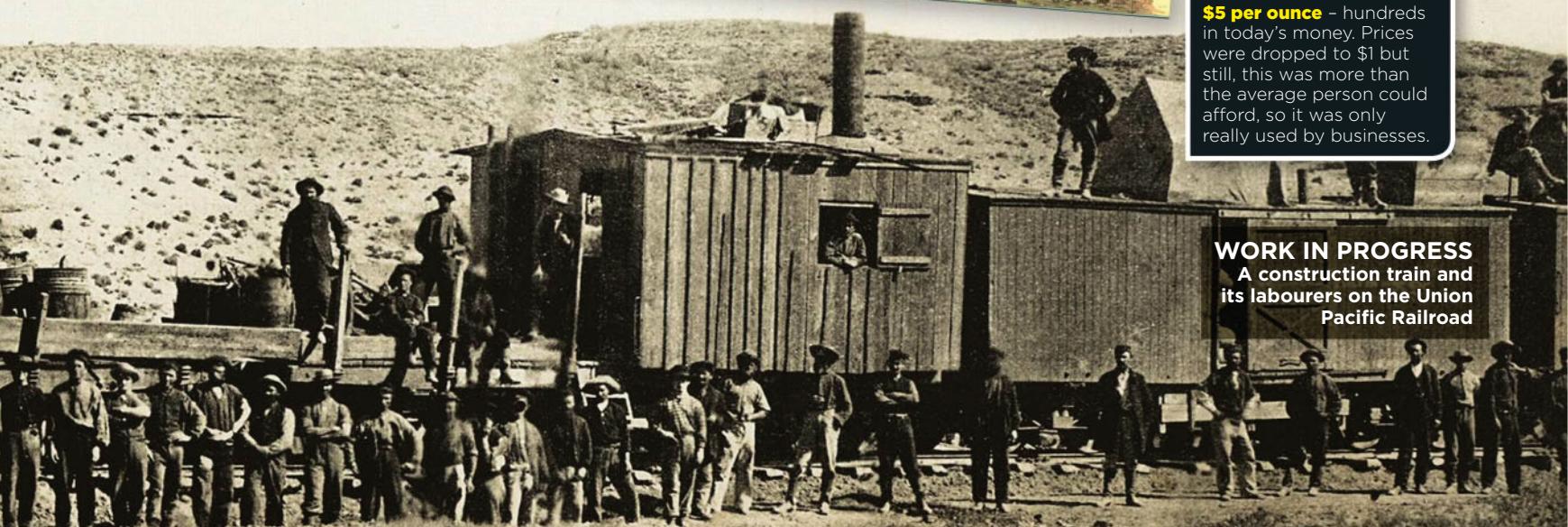
The most famous Pony Express rider, however, was William Cody, who later became Buffalo Bill and helped popularise the image of the company through his touring Wild West show.

The Pony Express ceased operating in October 1861, as the Civil War broke out and the first transcontinental telegraph line opened.



## PRICES SLASHED!

The original rate to send a letter across the US was **\$5 per ounce** – hundreds in today's money. Prices were dropped to \$1 but still, this was more than the average person could afford, so it was only really used by businesses.



## WORK IN PROGRESS A construction train and its labourers on the Union Pacific Railroad

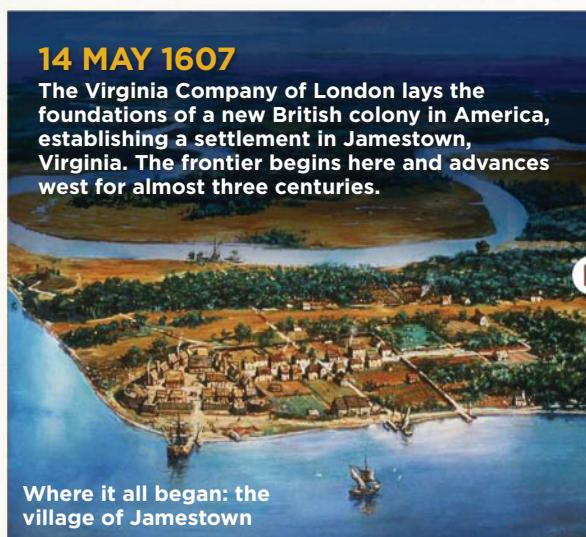


# TIMELINE The American

Follow the frontier as it creeps, leaps and bounds across the great continent

## 14 MAY 1607

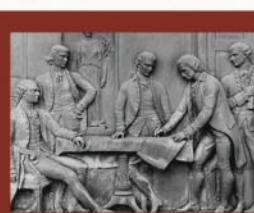
The Virginia Company of London lays the foundations of a new British colony in America, establishing a settlement in Jamestown, Virginia. The frontier begins here and advances west for almost three centuries.



Where it all began: the village of Jamestown

## 1775

Daniel Boone pioneers the Wilderness Road through the Cumberland Gap in the Appalachian Mountains from North Carolina and Tennessee into Kentucky. The American Revolutionary War begins between the United Kingdom and its former North American colonies.



## 1783

The war ends with the Treaty of Paris and the recognition of a sovereign United States, bounded by Canada to the north, Florida to the south, and the Mississippi River to the west.

## 20 DECEMBER 1803

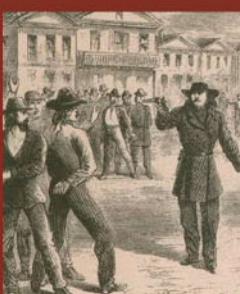
With the Louisiana Purchase, control of 828,000 square miles of land passes from France to the US, doubling the size of the young country overnight.

New Orleans raises its new flag in early 1804



## 21 JULY 1865

In the town square of Springfield, Missouri, Wild Bill Hickok kills Davis Tutt in a quick-draw duel, the first of its kind.



## JANUARY 1861

Seven southern 'slave states' secede from the US, forming the Confederate States of America. The American Civil War begins in April and rages for four years.



## 3 APRIL 1860

The first Pony Express rider leaves St Joseph, Missouri. The service, which can deliver mail to California in ten days, runs until October 1861.



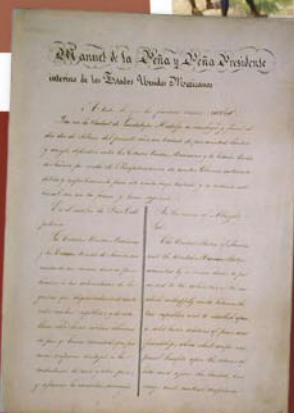
## 1849

Detective Allan Pinkerton forms the North-Western Police Agency, later renamed the Pinkerton National Detective Agency.



## 2 FEBRUARY 1848

Mexico cedes California to the US in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

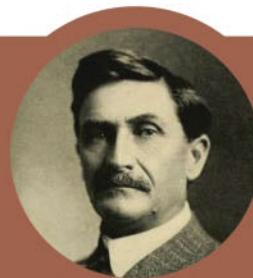


## 10 MAY 1869

The 'Golden Spike' connecting the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads is hammered home at Promontory Summit, Utah - symbolically completing the first transcontinental railroad to reach across the US.

## 25 JUNE 1876

Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer's 7th Cavalry advance party attacks a large group of Native American warriors gathered at Sitting Bull's Little Bighorn camp. In the resulting battle, Custer and his troops are annihilated.



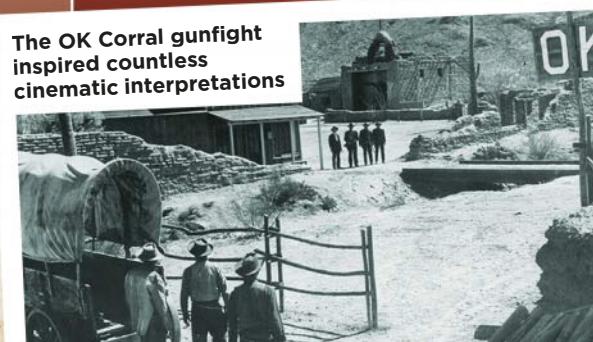
## 14 JULY 1881

Sheriff Pat Garrett (above) kills outlaw Billy the Kid in Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

## 26 OCTOBER 1881

Several Earp brothers and Doc Holliday participate in the legendary Gunfight at the OK Corral in Tombstone, Arizona, which blazes for 30 fatal seconds.

The OK Corral gunfight inspired countless cinematic interpretations



## 3 APRIL 1882

The outlaw Jesse James is killed by a member of his own gang, Robert Ford (right), in St Joseph, Missouri.



# West

of North America

## How Wild were the Westerns?

### THE WILD BUNCH (1969)

In 1913, an ageing outlaw gang led by Pike Bishop (William Holden) attempts one last heist before fleeing to Mexico, pursued by bounty hunters. A Mexican General persuades the desperados to rob a US train carrying weapons, leading to a bloody showdown. It's total fiction, but notable for its genre-bucking gory violence and historic setting – amid the Mexican Revolution with the Wild West giving way to an age with automobiles and automatic weapons. Anachronistic props include a Browning machine gun (not developed until WWI).



### NOVEMBER 1805

The Lewis and Clark Expedition reaches the shores of the Pacific Ocean, having travelled most of the width of the vast continent.

### 1812

A party led by Robert Stuart discovers the South Pass through the central Rocky Mountains. This later becomes the main conduit for the Oregon Trail, which sees thousands of wagon trains pass through it.

### 1813

Governor William Henry Harrison defeats the Indian-British alliance at the Battle of the Thames in Canada. The Native American leader Tecumseh is killed and the coalition of hostile indigenous tribes collapses.

### Shawnee chief Tecumseh dies in action



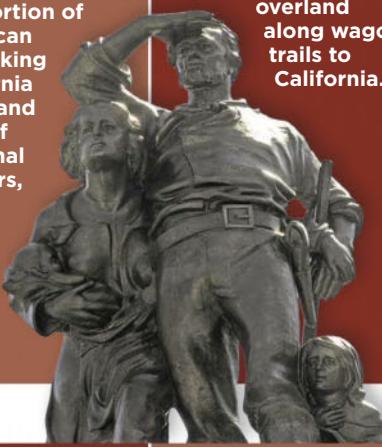
Mexico's new President enters the capital

### 1821

Mexico gains independence from Spain after 11 years of fighting.

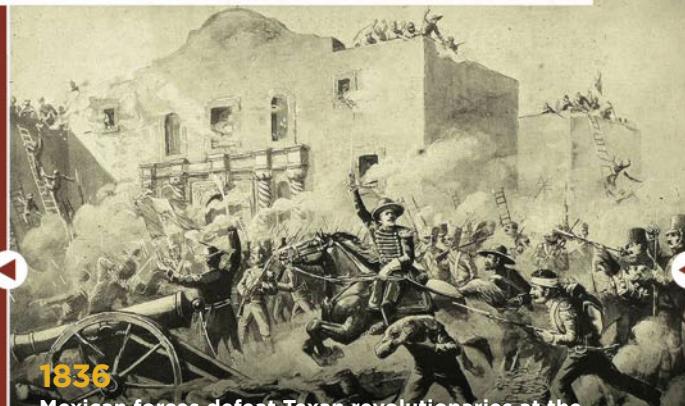
### JANUARY 1848

James Marshall finds gold in the Sierra Nevada portion of the American River, sparking the California gold rush and an influx of international prospectors, which reaches its peak in 1849.



### APRIL 1846

The ill-fated Donner Party sets out from Illinois to travel overland along wagon trails to California.



### 28 MAY 1830

President Andrew Jackson's 'Indian Removal Act' is passed by Congress, authorising the transplantation of indigenous tribes from their ancestral homelands to territories west of the Mississippi. The forced migration becomes known as the Trail of Tears.

### 1883

William Cody founds his famous 'Buffalo Bill's Wild West' show, which variously stars Sitting Bull, Calamity Jane and Annie Oakley. The show tours America and, later, Europe – doing much to spread myths and legends about the Wild West.

### 1886

Native American leader Geronimo surrenders in Texas, bringing to an end the Apache wars.



### 2 JUNE 1899

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, together with their gang, the Wild Bunch, hold up and rob a Union Pacific train near Wilcox, Wyoming. Butch and Sundance later flee to South America, where they're most likely killed in 1908.



### DECEMBER 1890

Sitting Bull is killed just days before the Wounded Knee Massacre sees the 7th Cavalry kill 150 Sioux men, women and children, which brings a bloody close to the Indian Wars. The same year, the US Census declares there is no longer a clear line of advancing settlement, and hence no western frontier. The West is complete – but is it tamed?

The massacre at Wounded Knee begins

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BROTHERS  
IN ARMS

Frank (left) and  
Jesse James at  
the start of their  
murderous  
careers, c1865

# HOW WILD WAS THE WEST?

For a time, society on the frontier was lawless, violent and full of vice. But the wicked times couldn't last. Soon enough, the lawmen rode into town...

## How Wild were the Westerns?



### UNFORGIVEN (1992)

When a prostitute is disfigured by cowboys in Big Whiskey, Wyoming, repentant gunfighter William Munny (Clint Eastwood) is tempted out of retirement by a reward. He recruits Ned Logan (Morgan Freeman) to help, but runs up against Sheriff Bill Daggett (Gene Hackman), who's violently opposed to vigilantism. Fictional, but notable for its gritty, unromantic realism, the inclusion of an African-American character and the depiction of a journalist creating a mythologised image of the Wild West even while the era is unfolding.



## THE BIG STORY THE WILD WEST

Hollywood has done an excellent job of painting the Wild West as a lawless landscape, where sheriffs were lucky to last a day and outlaws were the real heroes. But, while there is some truth in that image, the bigger picture is far more complex.

The normal mechanics of law and order were notoriously absent from the Wild West, where authorities struggled to keep pace with a restless and ever-expanding frontier.

Boomtowns and border settlements had transient populations, massively dominated by single males – many armed and accustomed to violence from involvement in the multiple conflicts that scarred the era.

The Californian gold rush attracted thousands of men from all around the world, and created a social situation where the only recreational outlets were brothels, saloons and gaming houses. Mexican laws no longer applied in the embryonic state, and American rules were more conceptual than concrete.

People on the move were vulnerable to Native American raids, banditry and opportunistic crime. Settlers, immigrants and prospectors travelled with all their possessions, money and, occasionally, gold. They made easy targets

for desperados such as Jack Powers, an Irish highwayman who terrorised the El Camino Real – a Californian highway – and dominated the city of Santa Barbara in the early 1850s, until he was chased out of town by a posse of vigilantes.

Organised outlaws included 'The Five Joaquins', a Mexican gang led by Joaquin Murrieta and his right-hand man, Three-Fingered Jack, who hounded settlers, ranchers and miners in the Mother Lode area of California's Sierra Nevada

a mixture of ethics and expediency. When warned that gangs of outlaws were nearby, settlers would sometimes raise a posse to drive them away. Theft within the community was punished harshly. Vigilantism and lynchings were commonplace.

As California's population rose, rampant crime – combined with low levels of official law enforcement – led to the creation of the San Francisco Committee of Vigilance in 1851. This

700-strong citizen mob dealt with alleged indiscretions immediately, passing judgment on suspected criminals without trial and dishing out instant justice – including death by hanging and shooting.

Such committees existed in

Texas and also elsewhere, and many were active for decades – sometimes creating more crime than they prevented. In 1868, in Jackson County, Indiana, the local Vigilance Committee (aka, the Scarlet Mask Society) broke into a jail to lynch three of the Reno brothers, who'd already been tried and imprisoned for robbery.

### BAD MEN AND BADLANDS

Behind the frontier, a cowboy culture began to evolve. Amid the rough and tumble of life in the cattle industry – where fighting and feuding was common and often involved lawmen – some men became criminals simply by backing the wrong side. Arguably, this was the fate of Billy the Kid, who killed more men in self-defence than through malice, and wasn't a known thief.

But the West was a land of opportunity for outlaws, who could easily disappear through remote passes and into unpoliced badlands after committing robberies. Famously, the Hole-in-the-Wall Pass in Johnson County, Wyoming – used by gangs throughout the era, including Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid – was never penetrated by lawmen.

In the absence of effective legal mechanisms, private agencies sometimes assumed the role of law enforcers and property protectors. The biggest and most famous of these was the Pinkerton Agency.

**How Wild were the Westerns?**

**HIGH NOON (1952)**

The day he marries and hangs up his badge, Marshal Will Kane (Gary Cooper) learns a jailed outlaw is returning on the noon train to exact revenge. Kane, lacking support from frightened townsfolk and his Quaker wife (Grace Kelly), has to face his enemy alone. A fictional, but fair reflection of some lawmen's isolation in the Wild West. Amid McCarthyist hysteria, John Wayne described this tense ethics-based drama as un-American and led a successful campaign to blacklist screenwriter Carl Foreman.



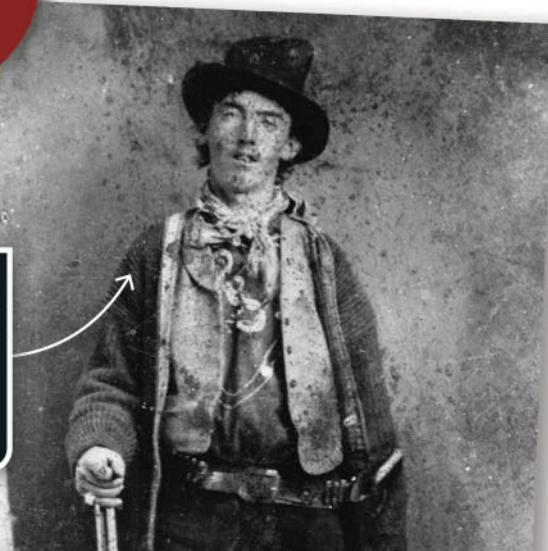
**ROUGH JUSTICE**  
BELOW: A vigilante committee assembles in San Francisco  
BELOW RIGHT: Billy the Kid, who may not have been the villain he is remembered as

**632**

The reported number of victims of lynching and vigilantism during the Wild West era.

#### ALTERNATIVE END

One **wild theory** has it that, after Billy the Kid escaped jail, rather than being shot dead on 14 July 1881 as most history books have it, he **fled to Mexico** and lived as Ollie L 'Brushy Bill' Roberts.



# WANTED

## DEAD OR ALIVE

REWARD  
\$10,000



### Jesse James

**Real Name:** Jesse Woodson James

**Crimes:** Multiple robberies and murders

**Gang affiliation:** James-Younger Gang

**Nemeses:** The Pinkerton Detective Agency and Missouri Governor Thomas Crittenden

**Price on his head:** \$10,000

**Bio:** A graduate of the brutal Quantrill's Raiders force in the Civil War, James and his brother Frank were violent career criminals and murderers who evaded the Pinkerton agency, killing at least two agents.

**Justice:** Never jailed.

**Ultimate fate:** Shot in the back of the head on 3 April 1882, by Robert 'Bob' Ford.

REWARD  
\$6,500



### The Sundance Kid

**Real Name:** Harry Alonzo Longabaugh

**Crimes:** Multiple bank and train robberies

**Gang affiliation:** (Butch Cassidy's) Wild Bunch

**Nemeses:** The Pinkerton Detective Agency

**Price on his head:** \$6,500

**Bio:** Born into a Baptist family in Pennsylvania, he was a former ranch hand, broncobuster and drover, who began a life of crime by stealing a horse. Recruited by Butch Cassidy.

**Justice:** With Butch Cassidy he was pursued into South America by Pinkerton agents.

**Ultimate fate:** Probably killed in a shootout in Bolivia in November 1908.

REWARD  
\$5,000



### Butch Cassidy

**Real Name:** Robert LeRoy Parker

**Crimes:** Multiple bank and train robberies

**Gang affiliation:** (Butch Cassidy's) Wild Bunch

**Nemeses:** The Pinkerton Detective Agency

**Price on his head:** \$5,000

**Bio:** Born into a Mormon family in Utah, Cassidy began a life of crime by stealing a pair of jeans. He quickly progressed to large-scale robberies and led the most successful train-robbing gang in history. Claimed never to have killed anyone.

**Justice:** With the Sundance Kid he was pursued into South America by Pinkerton agents.

**Ultimate fate:** Probably killed in a shootout in Bolivia in November 1908.

REWARD  
\$4,000



### Little Arkansaw

**Real Name:**

John Wesley Hardin

**Crimes:** Multiple murders, horse theft, jail break

**Gang affiliation:** The Taylor family

**Nemeses:** The Texas Rangers

**Price on his head:** \$4,000

**Bio:** Hardin claimed to have killed 42 men by 1878, when he was 24. He shot one man for snoring. Studied law in prison, and passed the state's bar examination upon release.

**Justice:** Captured by Texas Rangers and sent to prison in 1878, he served 15 years.

**Ultimate fate:** Shot dead playing dice in an El Paso saloon in 1895.

REWARD  
\$5,000



### The Cimarron Kid

**Real Name:**

William 'Bill' Doolin

**Crimes:** Multiple bank, stagecoach and train

robberies, murder

**Gang affiliation:** (Doolin's) Wild Bunch

**Nemeses:** The Three Guardsmen

**Price on his head:** \$5,000

**Bio:** Head of the Wild Bunch (separate to Butch Cassidy's gang). Held up banks, stagecoaches and trains in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas in the 1890s.

**Justice:** Hunted down and cornered in Oklahoma Territory by Deputy US Marshal Heck Thomas.

**Ultimate fate:** Killed by Thomas, during a shootout on 25 August 1896.

REWARD  
\$5,000



### Billy the Kid

**Real Name:**

William H Bonney  
(born William Henry McCarty)

**Crimes:** Murder

**Gang affiliation:** The Regulators

**Nemeses:** Sheriff Pat Garrett

**Price on his head:** \$5,000

**Bio:** A fugitive from a young age, he's believed to have killed eight men in total, typically in self-defence.

**Justice:** Captured by Garrett, he was sentenced to death in 1881, but escaped by killing both of his guards.

**Ultimate fate:** Shot dead by Sheriff Pat Garrett on 14 July 1881, aged 21.

REWARD  
\$5,000



### Frank Reno

**Real Name:**

Frank Reno

**Crimes:** Multiple train and bank robberies, murders

**Gang affiliation:** The Reno Gang and the Jackson Thieves

**Nemeses:** The Pinkerton Detective Agency

**Price on his head:** \$5,000

**Bio:** Head of a gang that carried out the first three peacetime train robberies in US history. Later, the gang was scattered when they hit a train packed with Pinkerton agents working on a tip off.

**Justice:** Captured on the Canadian border and extradited.

**Ultimate fate:** Dragged from a jail cell by a vigilante mob and lynched.

REWARD  
\$5,000



### Mexican Robin Hood

**Real Name:**

Joaquin Murrieta

**Crimes:** Banditry, murder, robbery, horse rustling

**Gang affiliation:** The Five Joaquinis

**Nemeses:** California State Rangers

**Price on his head:** \$5,000

**Bio:** Background details are shady - thought to have been a Mexican who came to gold fields to seek fortune but turned to robbery after encountering racism. Some people claim the legend is not one man, but several. As many as 28 Chinese and 13 Anglo-American deaths were attributed to the gang he led.

**Justice:** Hunted down by California State Rangers led by Captain Harry Love.

**Ultimate fate:** Shot and beheaded. Preserved head taken on tour and displayed in California, until lost in the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake.

### Jack Powers

**Real Name:**

John Power

**Crimes:** Banditry, highway robbery, murder

**Gang affiliation:** Hounds and The Band of Five

**Nemeses:** Various vigilante groups

**Price on his head:** Unknown

**Bio:** An Irish-born gambler, Powers was street tough. Raised in New York and fought in Mexican-American War. He terrorised travellers along El Camino Real. An excellent horseman, he created alibis after crimes by speeding from scene, using a series of fresh horses positioned along the way, to appear in a city casino.

**Justice:** Chased away by vigilantes - escaped to Los Angeles.

**Ultimate fate:** Killed in a fight over a woman and fed to pigs.

REWARD  
\$1,000



### Black Bart

**Real Name:**

Charles Earl Bowles

**Crimes:** Stagecoach robbery

**Gang affiliation:** None

**Nemeses:** Wells Fargo Detectives

**Price on his head:** \$1,000

**Bio:** An English-born gentleman bandit who sometimes left poems at his crime scenes and never fired a gun. Bowles held up 28 Wells Fargo stagecoaches across northern California from 1875-83. Scared of horses, he worked on foot.

**Justice:** Tracked down by Wells Fargo Detectives after leaving personal items at a crime scene when shot and wounded.

**Ultimate fate:** Bowles disappeared after serving four years in prison. Last seen on 28 February 1888.

### Robert 'Bob' Dalton

**Real Name:**

Robert Reddick Dalton

**Crimes:** Selling alcohol in Indian Territory, horse stealing, bank and train robberies, murder

**Gang affiliation:** Dalton Gang

**Nemeses:** The Three Guardsmen

**Price on his head:** unknown

**Bio:** Leader of a gang that also contained two of his brothers, Grat and Emmett. A former lawman, Bob was said to be a crack shot. The gang had connections with Bill Doolin and the Wild Bunch.

**Justice:** Surrounded by locals while trying to rob two banks at the same time in Coffeyville, Kansas.

**Ultimate fate:** Shot dead by townspeople, along with brother Grat. Younger brother Emmett survived 23 gunshot wounds, served time and later became a Hollywood actor.

# THE BIG STORY THE WILD WEST

Scottish by birth and a cooper by trade, Allan Pinkerton became a pioneering detective and spy in the US, developing several surveillance techniques still in use today – including shadowing suspects and sending agents undercover with assumed identities to gather intelligence.

Appointed Chicago's first detective in 1849, he launched the North-Western Police Agency – later renamed the Pinkerton National Detective Agency – the following year. In the mid-1850s, he was engaged to protect the Illinois Central Railroad from train robbers, and there he met the railroad company's lawyer, Abraham Lincoln.

When later elected president, amid the rumbling advance of the American Civil War, Lincoln employed Pinkerton to look after his personal security and head up the Union Intelligence Service (a precursor to the Secret Service). The agency had several operatives undercover in the secessionist southern states, including Hattie Lawton, who warned her boss about an assassination attempt that would be made on Lincoln during a trip through Baltimore in Maryland, en route to his inaugural address.

At Pinkerton's behest, Lincoln changed his schedule, went through Baltimore under cover of darkness and arrived in Washington in disguise. It's unknown how real the threat was (Lincoln was accused of cowardice for his actions), but the event made Pinkerton famous.

Post war, Pinkerton recognised the need for a professionally run, private law-enforcement agency in the West, where gangs like the Renos were running amok, robbing banks and

## UNDERCOVER

During the Civil War, Pinkerton **adopted the alias** 'Major EJ Allen' while undertaking investigative work in the southern states.

## LAW AND ORDER

LEFT TO RIGHT: Allan Pinkerton, Abraham Lincoln and Major General John McClellan meet during the Civil War

FAR RIGHT: The saloonkeeper, gambler, lawman and gunslinger, Wyatt Earp

trains. Pinkerton's agents, known sneeringly as 'the Pinks' by those they chased, were unconstrained by state borders, and relentlessly hounded outlaws around the country. Famously they chased Butch and Sundance out of the US altogether, to South America.

## KILLER GENERATION

The Civil War left communities splintered, and spat out a generation of experienced killers, including the outlaw Jesse James. During the war, Jesse and his brother Frank had fought with Quantrill's Raiders, an irregular pro-Confederate force, also known as the 'bushwhackers', which used guerilla tactics and was responsible for numerous atrocities, including the infamous Lawrence Massacre.

With the war over and their leader dead, the James brothers began robbing banks – sometimes targeting businesses owned by former Union men. After several heists and killings in Missouri and Kentucky, a bounty was placed on their heads.

Jesse wrote to newspapers expounding his secessionist and violent pro-slavery views, and John Edwards, editor of the *Kansas City Times* and a former-Confederate cavalry soldier, started championing him. His folkloric status grew when he and Frank formed the James-Younger Gang with the Younger brothers, and robbed more banks in Iowa, Texas, Kansas and West Virginia, playing to the crowd as they did so. They graduated to train robbing in the 1870s, by which time the Pinkertons were on their tail.

# THE LEGEND OF THE WEST

Why has the Wild West become so iconic?

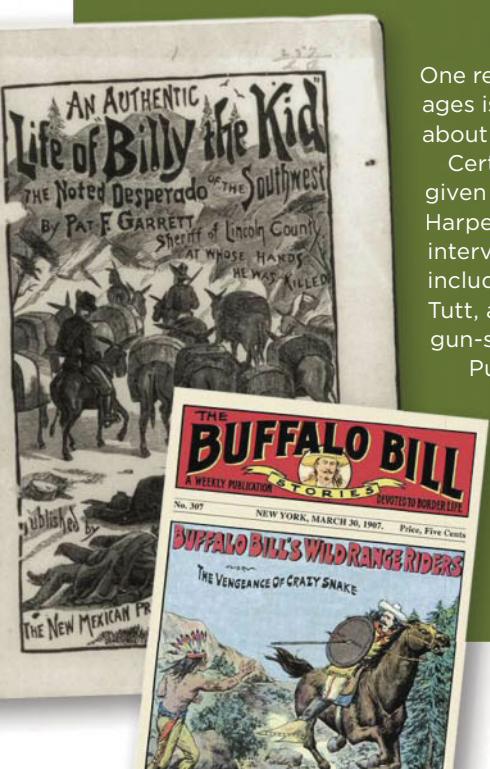
One reason the Wild West has resonated down the ages is that elements of the era began to eulogise about themselves even before the period ended.

Certain characters, including Jesse James, were given semi-celebrity treatment in their lifetimes. Harper's New Monthly Magazine ran an infamous interview with Wild Bill Hickok in 1867, which included an illustration of his duel with Davis Tutt, and greatly exaggerated the notorious gun-slinging lawman's deeds.

Published from the 1860s to the turn of the century, 'Dime Westerns' were cheap and popular, pulp fiction-style booklets, with plot lines that typically revolved around frontier themes and featured characters

including savage 'Indians', heroines in distress, cowboy heroes and outrageous outlaws. Billy the Kid was said to have been influenced by these books, and he ended up starring in them too.

The most famous example of this self-perpetuating legend-making movement, though, is provided by 'Buffalo Bill's Wild West' show, launched by William Cody in 1883. Cody, better known as Buffalo Bill, spanned the era, having worked as a Pony Express rider, fought in the Civil War and acted as a scout to the US Army during the Indian Wars. His shows, which variously starred sharp shooters like Annie Oakley and real-life gunfighter Jim 'Long Hair' Courtright, as well as Native American hero Sitting Bull, toured the United States and Europe, feeding the mixture of myth and history that was growing around the Wild West and sparking a fascination with the era in the hearts of younger generations.



## IN FOR A DIME

Billy the Kid and Buffalo Bill were both immortalised in Dime Western publications



After the deaths of two of his agents at the hands of the gang, Pinkerton took the case on personally. In a controversial incident that created sympathy for the outlaws, a raid he led saw an incendiary device lobbed into the James' homestead, causing an explosion and fire that killed Jesse's half-brother and blew the arm off their mother, Zerelda.

Pinkerton's ultimate failure to bring the James brothers in – or even stop them from committing robberies, which they continued to do until Jesse was fatally shot by one of his own gang in 1882 – was regarded as a blip on an otherwise successful career.

Pinkerton presided over the world's largest private law enforcement organisation. At its height, his agency employed more agents than the US Army had standing soldiers. They became the go-to people for banks and railroads with gang problems, but some towns had such an endemic crime problem that only a rough, tough and ruthless lawman could turn things around. Fortunately, the West had them too.

## GUN-SLINGERS & LONE STARS

Some settlements were home to so many criminals they became 'outlaw towns'. Yet even in the wildest boomtowns, some common rules did apply. Dodge City and Tombstone both banned the carrying of concealed weapons by civilians within city limits and, later, the open carrying of guns too – so cowboys didn't swagger around and gamble in saloons with two six-shooters hanging at their hips, no matter what Hollywood would claim.

That didn't stop gunfights taking place, though. The first recorded quick-draw duel was fought between Wild Bill Hickok and Davis Tutt in 1865, in the town square of Springfield, Missouri. There was bad blood between the two over a woman, but the immediate cause for the duel was row over a gambling debt. Unlike film portrayals of such fights, the men stood sideways (presenting a smaller target) about 70 metres apart, before going for their guns, aiming and shooting. Tutt missed his man, but Hickok's bullet pierced his opponent's heart.

In the Wild West, gunmen enjoyed a certain status. Although Hickok was arrested two days after the duel, the judge advised the jury that, while the defendant was undoubtedly guilty,

# WILD WOMEN

The fearless ladies who made names for themselves in this male-dominated land

The gender disparity in the Old West was huge, with men massively outnumbering women, especially after the gold rush. Unsurprisingly, boomtowns and frontier cities had numerous bordellos and one of the most notorious women of the era was Pearl de Vere – aka the Soiled Dove of Cripple Creek – who bossed a luxurious brothel in Colorado, charging punters \$250 a night.

Buffalo Bill's sharpshooting superstar Annie Oakley thrilled the crowds at Wild West shows around the country, but several other women defied the attitudes of the time, becoming every bit as wild as their male counterparts in the real world, not just the theatre.

These included 'Little Britches' (real name Jennie Stevens) and 'Cattle Annie' (Anna Emmaline McDoulet), two young women who embraced a life of crime after reading Dime Westerns (see left). The teens spent two years stealing horses, illegally selling alcohol to indigenous tribes, and warning outlaw gangs about the presence of law-enforcement officers, before being caught and serving time.

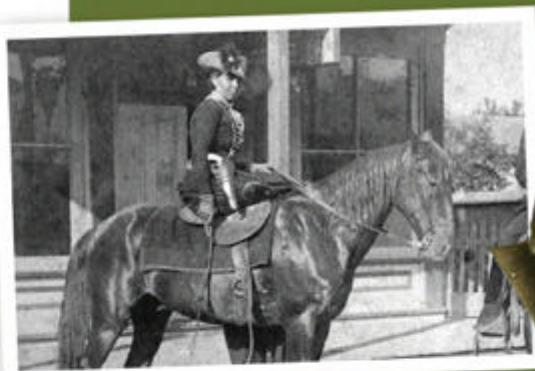
Martha 'Calamity Jane' Cannary is the most famous female from the frontier. She's remembered as a fearless rider, hard drinker and a crack shot, who spent time working as a scout, fighting 'Indians' and hanging out with Wild Bill Hickok, though doubts have been poured on some of these claims.

In contrast, Pearl Hart's story is well documented. Born in Canada, Hart came to the US with her gambling husband, where she was impressed by Buffalo Bill's show. After escaping her unhappy marriage she, with an

acquaintance, held up a stagecoach. Relieving the travellers of their money, Hart famously returned \$1 to each passenger. The pair were quickly caught and imprisoned. Once released, she joined Buffalo Bill's show.

Another outlaw queen was Myra Maybelle Shirley – better known as Belle Starr. After a good education she fell into the company of several Missouri criminals, including Jesse James. A crack shot, she famously rode sidesaddle, dressed in black velvet with a plumed hat, and carried two pistols with cartridge belts across her hips. After being widowed twice, Belle married a Cherokee man named Sam Starr and lived in the Indian Territory, where she ran a business aiding and abetting horse thieves and bootleggers. In 1883, she was found guilty of horse stealing and served nine months in prison. She was later shot off her horse and murdered, a crime that was never solved.

Perhaps the most interesting tale, however, belongs to Laura Bullion (aka Della Rose, Desert Rose and Clara Hays), the daughter of a German woman and a Native American outlaw. While working as a prostitute, Bullion began a romantic liaison with outlaw Ben Kilpatrick (aka the Tall Texan), and she joined Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch gang. In 1901, she was found guilty of train robbery. After three years in prison, she settled down as dressmaker and interior designer, living until 1961 – the last of the Wild Bunch.



## BAD GIRLS

ABOVE: Sidesaddle-riding Belle Starr, in her distinctive, refined getup  
RIGHT: Cattle Annie (left) and Little Britches, who started out young

7

The percentage of California's population made up by women in 1851





## EXPERT VIEW

**Dr David Sim**  
US History Lecturer  
at UCL

## "THE WEST LOST ITS WILD ROMANTIC IMAGE BY 1900"

### Why do we have an enduring fascination with the Wild West?

In many ways, the West has come to stand in for our image of the US. It's been used to represent ideas about rugged individualism, self-reliance and a classless society where anyone could reinvent themselves through hard graft – the American dream.

### Who was the wildest of the West?

Lots had murky careers as vigilantes on the edges of the Civil War before turning their hands to straight-up criminality – Jesse James being a good example. We don't know exactly how many people he and his gang killed, but they were accomplished robbers who terrorised Missouri for a decade. James was very aware of his own fame – during his lifetime he was celebrated by some as a noble, if vicious, character.

### What would life have been like for women in the West?

In 1862, the US government decided it needed to settle the West, and began encouraging stable family units to set up farms. For plenty, the West was dangerous and violent, but for many, it offered a place to remake themselves. And, as different territories competed to attract women, they offered more rights for women: equal pay laws, divorce laws and voting rights. Before women's suffrage was secured nationally in 1920, most states where women could vote were in the West.

### At what point did the West cease to be wild, and what tamed it?

By the time people started writing about the stereotypes we associate with the West today, it was already gone. After the Civil War there was a massive explosion of investment; thousands moved to the West and the government forced the remaining Native Americans onto reservations. Within two generations – by about 1900 – the West lost the wild romantic image it had boasted mid-century.



### THE DEATH KNELL

Two dead members of the Dalton Gang – one of the West's last wild outlaws – killed in a shootout in 1892

## "YOU NEEDED REAL GRIT IN YOUR GUTS TO WEAR A LAW BADGE"

they could apply the unwritten law of the "fair fight". Hickok was acquitted and later worked as Sheriff of Ellis County, City Marshal of Hays and Marshal of Abilene. He became involved in many more fatal gunfights while employed in these roles, and was eventually relieved of his duties after accidentally killing one of his deputies in a street shootout.

Often, the biggest difference between a law enforcer and a gun-slinger was a badge, but you needed real grit in your guts to wear that badge. On 11 April 1881, Dallas Stoudenmire became the sixth Town Marshal in eight months in the lawless town of El Paso, Texas. Three days later, he was involved in the Four Dead in Five Seconds Gunfight, the first of several fatal incidents before he himself was shot dead by the Manning brothers on 18 September 1882.

Another renowned gunman, Jim 'Long Hair' Courtright, carved a successful career as a lawman in Fort Worth, Texas, halving the crime rate (mostly by shooting repeat offenders). But he notoriously used his badge and deadly reputation to extort money from business owners – a practice that came to an abrupt end when he was killed in a gunfight by Luke Short.

Both Short and Courtright were friendly with Wyatt Earp, a rambling, gambling, gun-slinging character who would become an icon of the Wild West. Earp worked for a while as Assistant City Marshal in Dodge City, before moving to Texas, where a dentist-come-gambler called John 'Doc' Holliday saved his

life. In 1879, Earp moved to the silver-mining boomtown of Tombstone, with his brothers James, Morgan and Virgil, who was Tombstone City Marshal and Deputy US Marshal.

The brothers became involved in a feud with a group of outlaws called the Cowboys.

The feud came to a head at 3pm on 26 October 1881, when the Earps, along with Doc Holliday, engaged the Cowboys in a 30-second shootout, in which three of the outlaws were killed. The Gunfight at the OK Corral became the most celebrated fight in the history of the Wild West.

7,000  
The population of Tombstone in 1881, just four years after it was founded

### THE LAST WILD DAYS

Towards the end of the era, policing became more professional, as epitomised by the careers of a trio of legendary lawmen known as the 'Three Guardsmen': Deputy US Marshals Bill Tilghman, Chris Madsen and Heck Thomas.

Between 1889 and the turn of the new century, these men effectively cleaned up the Indian Territories and future state of Oklahoma. Most famous for their persistent pursuit of the Dalton and Doolin gangs, which ended in the deaths of four of the bandits, they're also credited with the arrest of over 300 desperados within a decade, leaving the West a considerably less wild place. ☀

## How Wild were the Westerns?



### DJANGO UNCHAINED (2012)

Texas, 1858, slave Django (Jamie Foxx) is purchased by German dentist-come-bounty hunter Dr King Schultz (Christoph Waltz), who exchanges freedom for help hunting down three brothers. The pair then set out to rescue Django's wife from a brutal Mississippi plantation owner (Leonardo DiCaprio). A fictional Tarantino bloodbath, notable – and historically correct – for making slavery an important part of the Wild West narrative. Inaccuracies include scenes with the Ku Klux Klan and mandingo fighting (slaves forced into mortal combat for sport).



# GET HOOKED

Your journey into the Wild West needn't stop here – there's plenty to see, read and watch

## MUSEUMS AND LOCATIONS



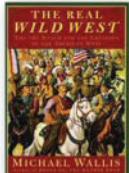
### ▲ THE OREGON TRAIL

Follow the 2,200-mile route, between the National Frontier Trails Museum ([www.ci.independence.mo.us/nftm](http://www.ci.independence.mo.us/nftm)) in Missouri, and the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center ([www.blm.gov/or/oregontrail](http://www.blm.gov/or/oregontrail)) in Oregon.

### ALSO VISIT

- Buffalo Bill Center, Cody, Wyoming [www.centerofthewest.org](http://www.centerofthewest.org)
- Bodie, California [www.bodie.com](http://www.bodie.com)

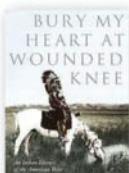
## BOOKS



### THE REAL WILD WEST (1999)

by Michael Wallis

The story of George Miller's 101 Ranch – a vast property that staged Wild West shows. This book presents the key characters, myths and facts.



### BURY MY HEART AT WOUNDED KNEE (1970)

by Dee Brown

An unapologetic history of the advancing western frontier from a Native American point of view.

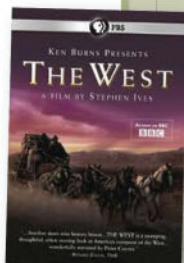
### ALSO READ

- **The Legacy of Conquest: the Unbroken Past of the American West (1988)** by Patricia Nelson Limerick
- **It's Your Misfortune and None of My Own: A New History of the American West (1993)** by Richard White

## ON SCREEN

### THE WEST (1996)

This 12-hour, documentary dramatically and accurately chronicles the evolution of the West, from the beginnings of the frontier to WWI.



### ALSO WATCH

- **Unforgiven (1992)**
- **Dances with Wolves (1990)**
- **The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007)**



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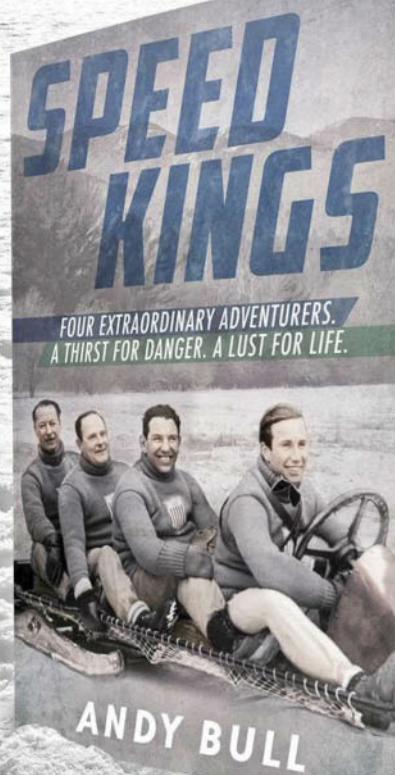
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The learned traveller as immortalised in this glass mosaic, a gift from his home city of Venice to Genoa



# MARCO POLO: THE ORIGINAL GLOBETROTTER

He changed the way the Western World looked at the planet, but we may never have heard of him at all, if it weren't for a serendipitous meeting in jail, writes **Mel Sherwood**

c1254

## THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Marco Polo is born into a merchant family in the cultural capital of the Western World, Venice. He probably receives a thorough education to prepare for his merchant life. His mother dies when he is young and he is raised by an aunt and uncle, as his father is away on an epic, 17-year merchant expedition.



**c1271  
LEAVING THE NEST**

Having only met his father Niccolò and uncle Maffeo two years previously, upon their return to Venice, Marco embarks for China with his new-found family members. His elders have a mission from Kublai Khan, Emperor of the Mongol Empire, to deliver letters to the Pope and to collect oil from the Holy Sepulcre in Jerusalem, making these the family's first two stops.



c1272

## TRAVEL SICK

After having to change their plans at Hormuz, on the Persian Gulf – where the boat the Polos were meant to take to Beijing was not fit for the journey – the merchants continue over land to China. The expedition is waylaid for a year by sickness.



**F**or Italian romance writer Rustichello da Pisa, being locked up in a Genoan prison near the end of the 13th century was a blessing in disguise for, in his cell, he stumbled across a story that is still in print today. His cellmate was Marco Polo, the story: the tale of the merchant's travels. In that dank prison, the 40-something Venetian traveller let his exotic stories of Jerusalem, China, India and beyond unfurl. The caged wordsmith lapped them up. A cosmography-cum-memoir, originally entitled *Divisament dou Monde* ('Description of the World') now commonly called *The Travels of Marco Polo*, was born.

The book was a sensation – it created ripples in Italian society that would, over the years, turn into tidal waves, with his story inspiring many adventurers of the Age of Exploration.

But Marco Polo's real story begins long before the narrative of the book, with a young lad in

the most prosperous and sophisticated city in the known world.

## ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Growing up in a wealthy merchant family during 1250s Venice, Marco's childhood was a mixture of fortunes. His home life would have been very comfortable and his education, thorough. He would have learned to read and write, with extra emphasis on mathematics and bookkeeping. Such an education was hardly common for the working classes at this time. And where he grew up was hardly common, either. In the 13th century, Venice was in its heyday. Considered the cultural centre of the Western World, the proud Venetians called their city *la serenissima* – 'the most sublime'. Venice's port was the main gateway to Asia, and with oriental fashions at a peak in Europe, this made for a prosperous place.

Such wealth – combined with the city-state's involvement in the Crusades – attracted

enemies, and Venice often found itself entangled in conflicts, notably with the Byzantine Empire and Genoa. But while it was waging wars, it was also creating great beauty. Venice's most noble families were engaged in a competitive showcase of opulence, flaunting their wealth with ever-more exquisite palaces and attracting the world's top artists.

However exciting school and society may have been for young Marco, family life was likely less happy. His father, Niccolò, along with his Uncle Maffeo, left home on a merchant expedition to the East before Marco was born, and wouldn't return for nearly two decades. Furthermore, Marco's mother died when he was a young boy, after which an aunt and uncle raised him.

Meanwhile, Niccolò and Maffeo were off making a fortune on an extraordinary trip of their own. A shrewd pair, they hotfooted it out of Constantinople (now Istanbul) just a year before the Crusader leaders there were overthrown in 1261. The brothers headed for China, their pockets lined with jewels they had invested in, where they would make a very important contact: Kublai Khan, ruler of the Mongol Empire. The merchants were given a mission – deliver a letter to the Pope, and return with 100 Christian priests and oil from the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. In return, they received the Khan's personal seals for safe passage – invaluable items for merchants wishing to collect the riches of the Orient. So, after some 16 or 17 years, they finally headed home.

**GIOVANNI BATTISTA RAMUSIO,  
16TH-CENTURY GEOGRAPHER**

**"It is a truly magnificent thing to consider the voyage that the father and uncle of Marco made all the way to the court of the grand Khan, Emperor of the Tartars."**





## c1274-91 CHINA TOWN

The travellers arrive in China and head to Kublai Khan's court, where Marco is hugely impressed with what he sees. His impressive linguistic skills lead the Khan to send him around the Empire on special missions. He discovers amazing cities, and later correctly estimates that millions of people must have lived here. In Venice, these numbers will lead to the nickname // *Milione* – 'the million'.

When the Polo brothers returned, they found a 15- or 16-year-old Marco, fully trained and ready to work with his father – who may not have even known of his son's existence. They had two years to get to know each other while they waited for the appointment of a new Pope – the other had recently died – so they could deliver the Khan's letters. The Pope agreed to give the Polos just two friars – (both of whom found the travelling too taxing, and returned home soon after departure). Finally, the family set off back to China, not to return for a further 23 years.

### FIRST GLIMPSES

En route to Jerusalem, Marco's world view was shaken to the core. Hitherto, Venice – the lagoon-city with marble palaces – was, he had always been told, the most marvellous place in the world. But, audacious as his hometown was, he was not prepared for the exoticism of the Middle East. His first glimpses of this alien and alluring culture struck him hard, leaving a striking impression on the man who, a quarter of a century later, would recall the sights in vivid detail. The fantastical pictures he painted in his account would hit Venice's collective ego so hard that they wouldn't believe his words.

Having travelled to Jerusalem to collect holy oil for the Khan, the Polos continued deeper into Asia, trekking over harsh, arid terrain to reach Hormuz on the Persian Gulf. In the

midst of parched desert expanses, the group encountered lush oases, to Marco's surprise. He later described them to his cellmate as "delightful little palm groves... a great pleasure to the travelling merchants".

At Hormuz, things were not as Marco's uncles had planned. The boat they should have boarded to take them to Beijing was insufficient for the journey, so the trio took the much more time-consuming and challenging land route.

After trudging through the inhospitable desert landscape of what is now north-eastern Iran, Marco was taken ill, possibly with malaria. They remained in Afghanistan, where the

**"The city is beyond dispute the finest and noblest in the world."**

Marco Polo on Quinsay (Hangzhou)

conditions and the people were much more welcoming, for a year, while the young man recovered. Supposedly, he recuperated in a mountainous region where clear air and a pleasant climate helped to cure him, though it is unclear where this may be.

### IN XANADU

The three travellers made it to China c1274-75, where they headed for the Khan's court in

## EAST IS EAST AT HOME WITH THE MONGOLS

The Mongol Empire spread through the East during the 13th and 14th centuries, beginning when Genghis Khan came to power in 1206. The Mongols took Beijing in 1215 and, by the time Kublai became the great Khan in 1260, the realm extended to Turkey in the west, north into Russia and south as far as Vietnam.

Kublai, known as *Setsen Khan*, the 'Wise Khan' believed that, in order to rule over a group of such disparate cultures, he had to embrace them all. To that end, he encouraged Mongols and Chinese to adopt each others' traditions and welcomed all religions.

Despite this, the Khan was still wary of his subjugated Chinese population – which is exactly why foreigners such as the Polos were placed in such positions of trust within the court.

Marco appears to have enjoyed his time with the Mongols, describing the Emperor as a model ruler. This is certainly in contrast to the general opinion of the Mongols in Europe, where they were considered great savages.

**GREAT KHAN**  
Kublai, grandson of Genghis Khan and Mongol leader



Xanadu – the Emperor's summer palace. The memory of this resplendent residence must have been a welcome one for Marco when he described it to Rustichello in their dingy jail: "A huge palace of marble, its halls and chambers all gilded, a wall encloses fully 16 miles of parkland, well watered with springs and streams".

The Emperor can't have been too upset by the lack of a mass of priests, as the Polos were soon engaged as employees of the state. Marco flourished during this time. He appears to have had considerable linguistic skills, mastering four different languages with relative speed. According to Marco's account, the Khan noticed this talent and liked to hear the merchant tell his tales of the distant places he had seen. Realising that the Venetian had a rare knack for perception, the leader began to send Marco off on missions to the far-flung corners of his Empire. With his merchant's education and keen eye, Marco gathered information about trade and industry – exactly the sort of information the Khan

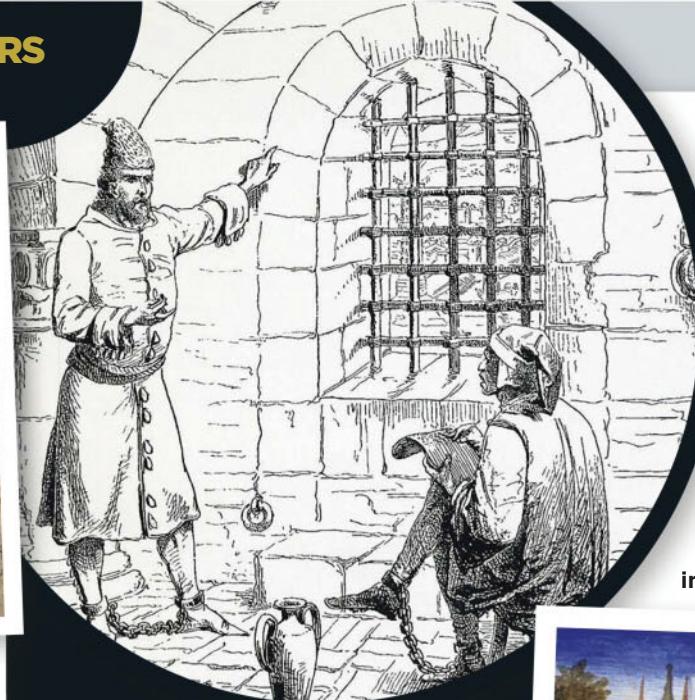


## THE HISTORY MAKERS MARCO POLO



### c1295 THE TRAVELLERS RETURN

After a long and complicated journey home, via Khorasan (in modern-day Iran) where they escorted a Mongol princess to her new husband, the Polos arrive back in Venice. It has been some 23 years since they left, and they find their hometown is at war with Genoa.



### 1298 PRISONER OF WAR

In a classic case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, Marco is taken prisoner by the Genoese as part of the ongoing conflict. While in jail, he comes to share a cell with a writer named Rustichello. Between them, they write a book that causes a sensation upon its release. By 1307, he is famous around Europe, but most people believe the book to be fictitious.



liked to keep track of. As the Emperor's envoy, Marco was sent all over China, as well as Myanmar and even as far as Java.

When he visited Quinsay (now Hangzhou), a lakeside city in eastern China, he was struck by its sophistication, boldly stating, "the city is beyond dispute the finest and noblest in the world". He goes on to correctly estimate that there were a million people living in the city – ten times as many as in his home city. Indeed, his use of the word 'millions' later led the Venetians to adopt the cruel moniker '*Il Milione*' for both the book and Marco.

Marco had a great interest in the different cultures and behaviours he witnessed, and one salacious trend seems to have been of particular interest to him. At this time in China, sexual experience, rather than innocence, made women more valuable as wives. So young ladies were offered up to travellers, who were deemed to be the most experienced of men. Indeed, he hints that he made the most of it, saying China was "a wonderful place for a man of 17-24 to visit".

### HOMeward Bound

The Polos asked the Khan for permission to leave his service and go home sometime around 1291. The Emperor rejected the request, instead sending Marco off on a journey to India, but around 1292, the Polos were called to see the nearly 80-year-old Khan. He had clearly had a

change of heart. They were asked to escort the Mongol Princess Kökechin to her husband-to-be in Persia, after which, they would be free to return to Venice.

They set sail from Zaiton (now Quanzhou) with a fleet of 14 ships. The voyage was hampered by monsoon storms, and had to wait the season out for five months. When they finally made it to Khorasan (in current

Iran) they found that Kökechin's betrothed had passed away. She married his son, instead.

En route to Europe, in what is now Turkey, the weary Polos were robbed of the majority of their valuable stock. When they eventually made it home in 1295, the men could barely speak their native language, family members hardly recognised them, and the city-state was at war with Genoa.

In a cruel twist of fate, Marco was taken prisoner by the Genoese after the boat he was travelling on was raided, which is how he came to share a prison cell with Rustichello. After a year in captivity, both the prisoners and

### 1324 END OF THE ROAD

Having married and had three daughters, the great adventurer passes away, aged around 70. On his deathbed, he reportedly says: "I did not write half of what I saw, for I knew I would not be believed" In his will, he frees a Tartar slave – probably a servant he brought back from China. He has lived quietly as a merchant in Venice for some 30 years.

the book were released. Marco soon became a celebrity, but he wasn't happy with his fame. The story was generally assumed to be a work of fiction because of the flamboyance, extravagance and abundance of it all. He insisted on the book's veracity, but society simply couldn't accept it.

The merchant settled down – he married, had three daughters, and lived to 1324, when he must have been pushing 70. He saw no great respect for his journey in his lifetime.

However, words live longer than people, and the next generations were inspired by his tale. Whether fable or fact, this intrepid explorer made the world seem at the same time smaller and larger – reachable, yet full of untold wonders waiting to be seen. And see them they did. Hundreds of wanderlust adventurers set off to discover the East for themselves. Among Marco's fans was the man who would discover the New World in 1492, Christopher Columbus. How different the Age of Exploration might have been without Marco's colourful, fanciful, but almost certainly true story. ☺

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Which other characters from history have inspired such Earth-changing events?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com



# **1400s** **IN HIS FOOTSTEPS**

Long after his death, Marco's tales inspire a wanderlust generation. The book becomes ever-more popular until, in the 1450s, explorers start to follow in his footsteps. These adventurers use maps based on those brought back from China by the Polos, and Christopher Columbus is so excited about his hero's book, that he writes notes in the margin.

**WANDERLUST**  
When Marco Polo set sail in 1271,  
he couldn't have imagined the  
legacy his trip would leave.

# **IS THIS JUST FANTASY... DID MARCO COOK THE BOOK?**

Ever since it was first let loose on Venetian society, *The Travels of Marco Polo* has been a source of controversy. While 13th-century readers were left flabbergasted by the idea of high culture in the East, modern historians have found reason to dispute the tale's veracity.

For some, the fact that the author fails to mention the Great Wall of China or tea drinking is pretty peculiar. He also claims a battle occurred during his

visit, though it happened three years earlier, and he himself is not named in any Chinese document of the time. However, as Marco would most likely have been given another name, that is easily explained.

There is much evidence in his favour, too, as he correctly refers to countless animals, plants, the use of paper money and many other specifics of the time. For most of today's historians, it is beyond doubt that Marco definitely served in Kublai's court and, while his reports may be given through rose-tinted glasses, they are based in truth. What is debated, is how many of the reported sights Marco saw himself, and how many were based on the descriptions of others.

## **How reliable were Marco's stories of his younger days?**

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# Q&A

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### DID YOU KNOW?

#### STARKERS SPRINTERS

Although the Olympics were invented long before, the first recorded Games were in 776 BC. They featured one event - a sprint over 192m, which had to be run naked. The winner was a cook named Coroebus. As his prize, he was presented with an olive branch.

## WHO WAS THE MONA LISA?

Commissioned around 1503, Leonardo da Vinci's 'Mona Lisa' is perhaps the most famous portrait in the world. With the artist himself making no mention of the work in his writings, a string of possible sitters have since been identified – including, bizarrely, da Vinci himself in drag – but it seems likely

to immortalise Lisa del Giocondo (née Gherardini), the wife of a Florentine cloth merchant.

Although not conclusive, details about the suspected family and the painting itself offer some clues. At around the time the painting was commissioned, the Giocondos were a middle-class and aspiring couple celebrating both the purchase

**THE MYSTERY OF MONA**  
Millions flock to see Lisa at the Louvre in Paris without knowing who she is

of their own house and the arrival of a son – both events worth commemorating. The painting's alternative title, 'La Gioconda', may even allude to both the model and her famous expression, being not only the feminine form of Lisa's married name but translated roughly as 'the happy one'. EB



# Did Roman Britain have its own emperor?

 Briefly, yes. In AD 286, Rome issued orders for the execution of one of its naval commanders. Carausius had been tasked with clearing the Channel of pirates, but he was suspected of collaborating with them in order to line his own pockets. When he got wind of his death sentence, Carausius responded by declaring himself Emperor of Britain and northern Gaul (France). To pay his forces and promote his rule, Carausius minted thousands of coins. Many have been uncovered in archaeological excavations and depict a thick-set bruiser of a man with a beard and a double chin. Many of what we now call the 'Forts of the Saxon Shore' – Roman forts like Pevensey or Portchester – may have been built or at least strengthened by Carausius, not to keep out Saxon raiders, but defend his empire. In AD 293, Carausius was finally assassinated by his finance minister, a man named Allectus. He went on to rule for three years until Rome mounted an invasion, defeated and killed him. JH



**BIG SPENDER**  
With a double chin, the likeness of Carausius wasn't all that flattering

# 13

The age of Margaret Beaufort, Henry VII's mother, when she was widowed in 1456. She was seven months pregnant with Henry and it was her second marriage – the first was annulled as she had been a toddler.

**COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING; KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS; WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS.**

HENRY FORD

This single quote from American industrialist Henry Ford sums up both the ethos of his business and the reason for his success in the 20th century. He brought his employees together using assembly-line production methods – which he revolutionised by introducing standardised parts. Employees stood in one place while the car moved down the line, being built in super-quick time. Ford's successful model meant that, for the first time, affordable cars were widely available.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### STAR-SPANGLED

Before entering politics and becoming President, Ronald Reagan was a Hollywood heart-throb. As a young man in the thirties and forties, he was contracted by Warner Bros, where he had starring roles alongside the likes of Humphrey Bogart and Errol Flynn.



Modern newspapers often report scientific studies that suggest children watch too much TV, or our gadgets are making us obese. But this anxious hand-wringing is nothing new. In the late 1820s, with the arrival of the passenger train, some doctors warned that speeds of 20mph would cause brain damage and the vibrations would shake people insensible. It was also suggested that herds of dairy cattle would be terrified by the noise, and so their milk would curdle in their udders. Later that century, when women took up the

new hobby of cycling, a handful of (male) doctors claimed the exertion of pedaling led to ugly 'bicycle face', in which the muscles permanently froze in an unladylike gurn. With modern eyes, it's hard not to see this as deliberate scaremongering to keep women confined to the home.

A more widely-held techno-fear came from 1870s America, when neurologist Dr George Miller Beard claimed the pace of the modern world, accelerated by the electrical telegraph, was causing debilitating mental exhaustion. He labelled the condition Neurasthenia. This so-called 'Americanitis' remained a recognised medical condition for decades. GJ

## WHAT WAS THE FIRST OPERA?



In 1598, Italian composer Jacopo Peri had the idea of putting on a musical play in which every single line was sung and the orchestra played throughout. The words were written by Ottavio Rinuccini, inspired by the story of Daphne and Apollo, and the work was named *La Dafne*. Peri called the show an 'opera', meaning simply 'piece of work'. The idea caught on and, soon, operas were performed across Italy and, from around 1650, Europe. RM



# IN A NUTSHELL

# ROSETTA STONE

When it was discovered in 1799, the Rosetta Stone unlocked the secrets to the mysterious and unreadable hieroglyphs



## What is it?

The Rosetta Stone is a large block of black granite, over 2,000 years old, that was rediscovered in Egypt in 1799. It was a remarkable find as it contains inscriptions that enabled scholars to learn how to read hieroglyphs that were previously indecipherable.

## What were its origins?

The Rosetta Stone can be traced back to 332 BC, when the Macedonian ruler Alexander the Great conquered Egypt. From then on, Egypt was ruled by a Greek dynasty, the majority of whom – confusingly – were called Ptolemy. In 205 BC, Ptolemy V succeeded to the throne while still a young child. The dynasty's grip on power was fragile, following the troubled reign of his ineffective father, Ptolemy IV.

Ptolemy V, in order to maintain his rule, had to strike a bargain with Egypt's priests, who still held a lot of influence in the country. The result of this was a proclamation in 196 BC, written by the priests, that supported

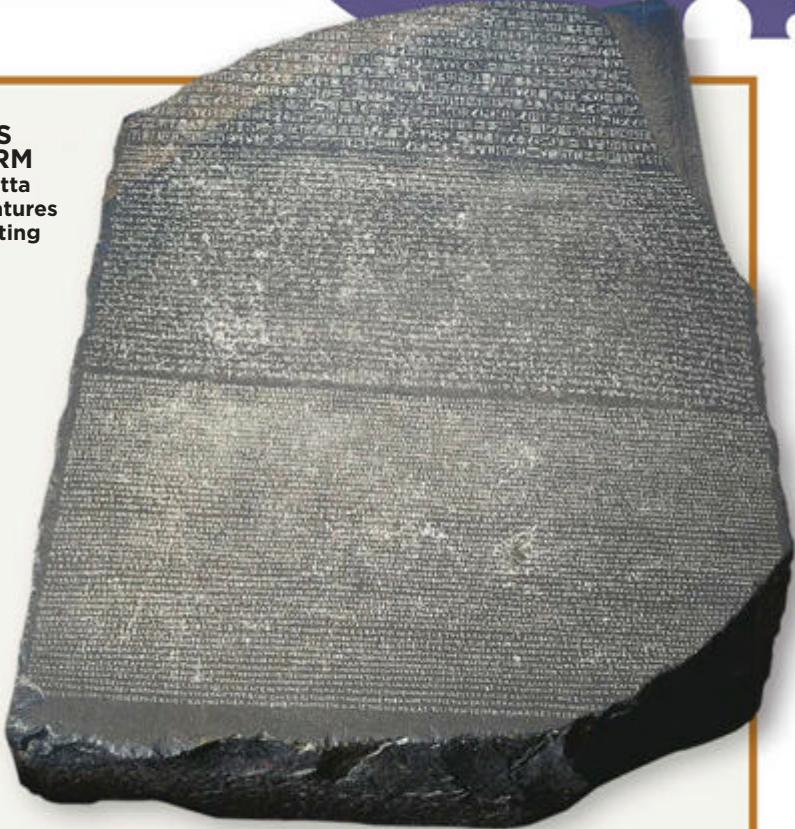
the young king's rule but included several concessions to the priestly class. Versions of this proclamation were installed in several Egyptian temple complexes, one of which survives today as the Rosetta Stone.

## Where does the name 'Rosetta' come from?

The name relates to its discovery in the Egyptian town of Rosetta (el-Rashid in Arabic) in 1799. A year earlier, Napoleon's French forces had invaded Egypt, then part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, and while working on fortifications, French soldiers discovered the large granite slab covered in inscriptions.

As it happened, Napoleon had brought several scholars with him on his Egyptian campaign and they soon realised that the stone was a thing of great value to historians. They didn't, however, get a chance to take it back to France as Napoleon's armies were defeated by British and Ottoman forces in 1801. As a consequence of the French surrender, the Rosetta Stone was transferred to

THIRD'S A CHARM  
The Rosetta Stone features three writing systems



British ownership. The following year, it was moved to the British Museum, where it still remains.

## Why is it such an important artefact?

The text on the Rosetta Stone is fairly dry and bureaucratic but, crucially, it is written in three separate scripts – Classical Greek, Egyptian hieroglyphics and another written version of Egyptian called demotic. Scholars couldn't read the mysterious hieroglyphs but by comparing the symbols to the Classical Greek words, which were understood, it became possible to translate the previously unknown languages.

## What exactly are hieroglyphs?

Greek for 'sacred carving', hieroglyphs – which appear in the form of a series of pictures – are used in an Ancient Egyptian form of writing that originated in around 3000 BC. As they were most often inscribed in Egyptian temples and on monuments, these characters were only really understood by the country's priests by the time of the Rosetta Stone. As Christianity began to

replace the Egyptian religion from the second century AD, knowledge of hieroglyphics faded until their last use in about 400 AD. For the next 1,400 years, nobody knew how to decipher the symbols – until the discovery of the Rosetta Stone.

## How long did it take to understand hieroglyphics?

The Rosetta Stone was the vital key to the puzzle, but not the complete solution. It still took many years, and hours of hard work, before the hieroglyphs could be deciphered.

An early breakthrough was made by the English physicist Thomas Young, who established that one group of characters on the stone made up the name Ptolemy. Young's work was carried on by the French linguist Jean-François Champollion, who showed that many hieroglyphs represented sounds (like the English alphabet) and were not pictorial versions of words, as had previously been assumed. Armed with this knowledge, Champollion made great strides and was able to publish papers from 1822, explaining how hieroglyphics could be read. He had cracked the code that opened a new window into the world of Ancient Egypt.



A SCHOLAR'S DOODLES  
The notebook of Jean-François Champollion, one of the chief translators of the Rosetta Stone



# HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

# STEAM ENGINES

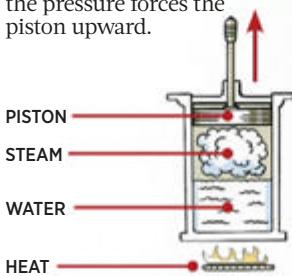
The invention that powered the Industrial Revolution

**Target** The steam engine may have its roots in antiquity, but it wasn't until the 18th century that the engine's potential was fully realised. It took a Scottish engineer named James Watt to develop the existing creations into an engine that would end humankind's complete dependence on muscle power and the elements and propel the world into a mechanical age.

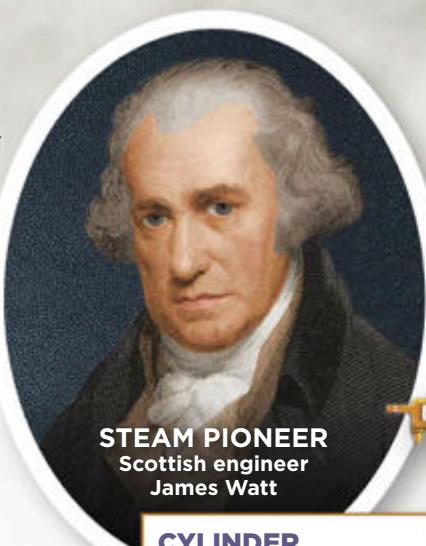
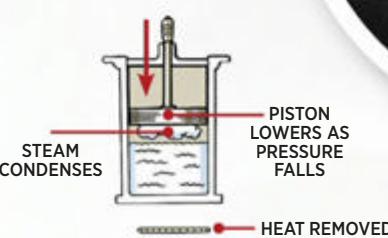
## KNOWING THE BASICS

Steam was used to move a piston up and down, which could power pumps or more complicated machinery...

**1 UP...**  
Heating water produces steam, and the pressure forces the piston upward.



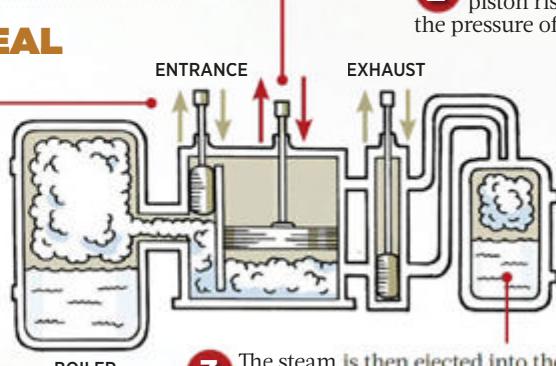
**2 ...AND DOWN**  
When the heat is removed, the steam condenses and downward motion is achieved.



## CYLINDER

In Watt's double-acting mechanism, steam enters the cylinder, in turn, at both the top and bottom, making the movement of the piston twice as fast.

**2** As normal, the piston rises due to the pressure of the steam.



**3** The steam is then ejected into the condenser where it can cool down. Meanwhile, the process is already starting again.



## WATT'S THE BIG DEAL

Waiting for the steam to cool was slow, so James Watt added a condenser...

**1** The steam moves from the boiler to the piston using valves.

## CONDENSER

A separate chamber where the steam condenses. Before Watt conceived this, energy was wasted repeatedly heating and cooling the cylinder.

## THE AGE OF STEAM

### 1ST CENTURY AD

**HERO'S ENGINE**  
The first recorded description of a steam turbine is by the Greek experimental engineer, Hero of Alexandria. He calls his device the aeolipile.

### 1125

**VITAL ORGAN**  
Historian William of Malmesbury writes about a musical organ powered by heated water. It was, according to Malmesbury, built in by a monk in Reims, France.

### 1663

**COMMANDING THE WATERS**  
Edward Somerset, Marquis of Worcester, publishes a book of 100 of his inventions. One of them is the 'water-commanding engine', using steam power to operate pumps.

### 1679

**PRESSURE IN THE KITCHEN**  
French physicist Denis Papin introduces his 'steam digester' – a forerunner of modern-day pressure cookers.

### 1698

**▼ COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL**  
Although it has several major flaws, Thomas Savery's pump, the Miner's Friend, becomes the first commercially successful steam engine. It is used to draw water from mines.

### 1712

**PISTON POWER**  
Developing on the Miner's Friend and the work of Papin, Thomas Newcomen installs a more efficient water pump, known as the 'atmospheric engine'. It is the first practical system that utilises a piston.

### 1755

**ACROSS THE ATLANTIC**  
Engineer Josiah Hornblower, who had gained expertise in building Newcomen's engines while in England, builds the first one in America.



## BEAM

As the piston moves up and down, it moves a beam connected to the flywheel. This is needed to convert the vertical motion of the piston into circular motion.

### FLYWHEEL

The flywheel turns using cranks – a type of arm connecting the beam and the wheel – or sun-and-planet gears. This allowed steam power to be used on all kinds of machinery.

### CENTRIFUGAL GOVERNOR

Another of Watt's innovations, which controlled the speed of the engine. If the two balls spun too fast, the steam would be cut off, while if they were moving slowly, more steam would be let through.

### FULL STEAM AHEAD

With steam powering new machinery, monumental advances were made in industry and transport

#### PUMPING WATER

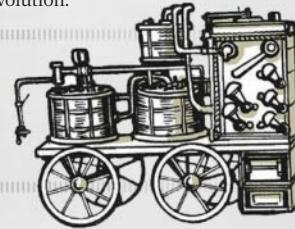
Throughout the 18th century, hundreds of Newcomen steam engines were used to pump water from mines across Britain. With this mechanical power, mines went deeper underground.

#### FACTORY AND MILL MACHINES

Steam engines generated much more power than water wheels, and were more reliable, so were installed in many factories and mills to drive machines. Steam was at the heart of the Industrial Revolution.

#### STERILISATION

In the early 20th century, steam began to be used in models such as this one to sterilise water. This had benefits in the world of medicine, particularly nursing.

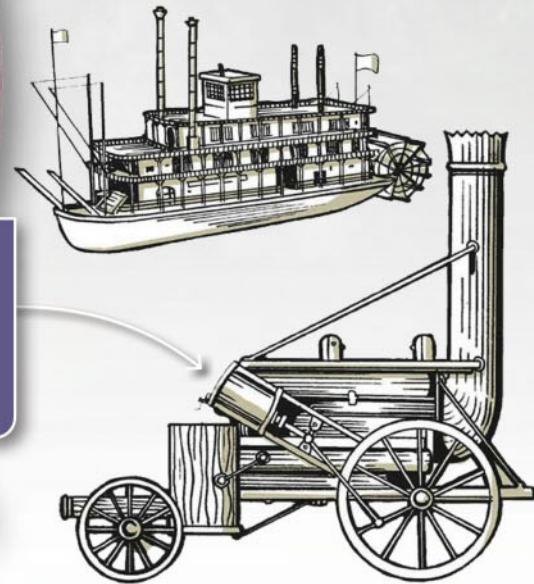


#### ELECTRICITY

Steam has been used to generate electricity, using high-powered turbines. Steam passes through a paddle wheel and mechanical energy is converted to electrical energy.

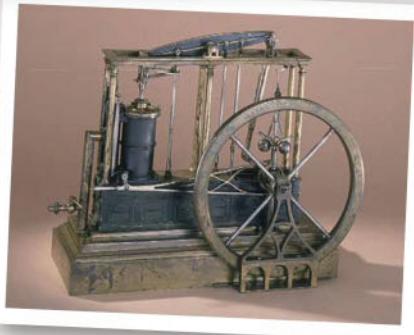
#### TRANSPORT

The world became a lot more accessible as steam-powered boats, locomotives and automobiles emerged.



1765

1769



**CONDENSING THE PROBLEM**  
James Watt makes a breakthrough in his experiments with steam by coming up with the idea of adding a separate condenser to a Newcomen engine, saving heat and boosting overall efficiency.

#### WATT'S ENGINE

Watt is granted a patent for his steam engine. It actually works poorly due to a faulty cylinder but is still powerful enough for Watt and his partner, William Boulton, to successfully sell it to burgeoning mills and factories.

1782

1802

1830

1884

#### DOUBLE TROUBLE

The power of Watt's engine is doubled by his creation of the 'double-acting' mechanism. It became possible to use steam engines to operate transport.

#### TO THE SEAS

The first "practical steamboat" – the 17-metre-long *Charlotte Dundas* built by Scottish engineer William Symington – is launched. A few years later, the *Clermont* is built in America by Robert Fulton.

#### ON TRACK

Following Richard Trevithick's locomotive in 1804, George Stephenson builds the world's first passenger railway between Liverpool and Manchester. The track is inaugurated with his famous engine, the *Rocket*.

#### TURBINES

The next era of steam power begins when a British engineer named Charles Parsons invents the steam turbine. Hugely powerful, turbines are able to create a great deal of electricity.



## “WHY DO WE SAY...”



**Target** Nobody wants to be told that they've been sacked, and have to come to terms with the fact they no longer have a job. But, want it or not, the phrase has plagued people for centuries.

Before the Industrial Revolution – when men, women and even children flocked to the factories to make a living – it was far more common for workers to travel from job to job. Rather than joining a team, tradesmen, craftsmen and labourers would move around on their own, carrying their own tools and supplies, and find work where they could get it. The easiest way to lug their tools around was in a sack, which they would then leave with their employer for safe keeping.

The origin of the phrase, therefore, starts to become clear. With no job security, contracts or trade unions, workers could be discharged at a moment's notice. Once their services were no longer required, they were literally given their sack, before being ordered to pack it up and leave.

## WAS HORNBLOWER BASED ON A REAL NAVAL OFFICER?

**Target** Cecil Louis Troughton Smith – better known as CS Forester – used to spend hours engrossed in the early 19th century *Naval Chronicle*, inspiring him to create Admiral Viscount Horatio Hornblower of Smallbridge.

Hornblower's life was not based on one man, but the amalgamated adventures of many officers. Their exploits filled twelve novels, taking a young, seasick rookie to battle-scarred Admiral of the Fleet. Forester had no need to embellish the stories – he recounts that, if anything, they were toned down. SL

**HORATIO THE HERO**  
The Hornblower stories were turned into a television series, starring Ioan Gruffud



**GALLOW'S JIG**  
Public executions were seen as a great day out for the whole family, children included



## WHEN DID PEOPLE STOP ATTENDING PUBLIC EXECUTIONS?

**Target** In past centuries, public executions of criminals had several purposes. They were a deterrent, a vengeful enactment of moral justice and a morbid form of entertainment.

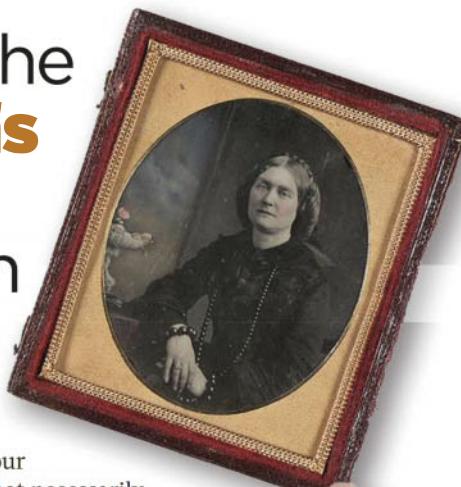
But in the 19th century, many western nations began moving their gallows behind grey prison walls. Why this decision

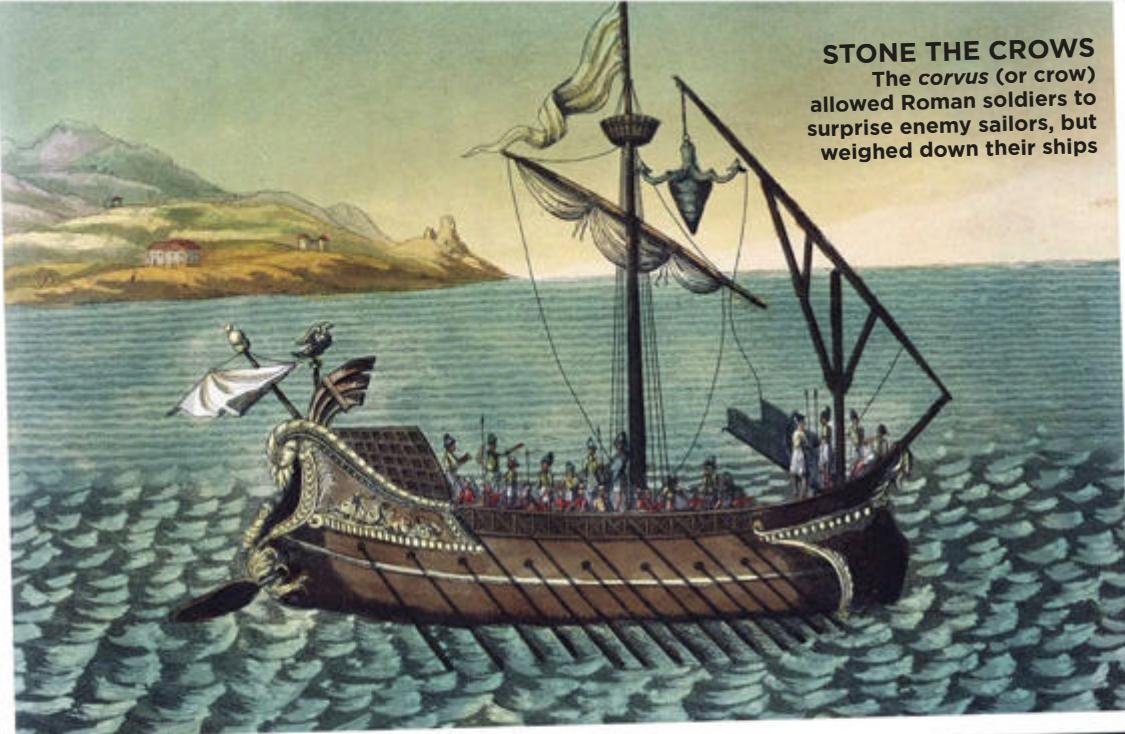
was taken is hotly debated, but it wasn't due to dwindling public interest. On the contrary, crowds in Victorian Britain were often rowdy mobs, and in 1868, the last man to be publicly executed in Britain – an Irish bomber named Michael Barrett – was booed by 2,000 people as he swung from the gallows at Newgate. For campaigners like Charles Dickens, such a furore was uncivilised and cruel, and his protests likely contributed to the change in the law. GJ

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**THE PURR-FECT GUEST**  
The Savoy Hotel keeps a small sculpture of a black cat handy, just in case it's needed as an extra guest when superstitious dinner parties have tables of 13. The art deco cat, Kaspar, was created by Savoy architect Basil Ionides, and has warded off bad luck for 88 years.

Why do the Victorians always look so miserable in photographs?

**Target** The grim-faced photographic portraits from the early days of photography colour our vision of the Victorian era, but it's not necessarily a reflection of the sitter's mood. It's true, many of those commissioning a formal studio portrait no doubt intended to be captured for posterity in a pose of thoughtful contemplation or dignified authority. Yet, the technology of the day (long exposure times in particular) required subjects to remain perfectly still – and a grin is difficult to maintain. It has also been suggested that, in an age of enthusiastic sugar consumption and rudimentary dental hygiene, most would have been reluctant to show their teeth. EB





**STONE THE CROWS**  
The corvus (or crow) allowed Roman soldiers to surprise enemy sailors, but weighed down their ships



**BONEY MINI**  
During the Napoleonic Wars, cartoons relentlessly showed 'Boney' as being very petit

## HOW DID A CROW HELP ROME DEFEAT CARTHAGE?

The corvus (meaning 'crow') was a Roman device used to board enemy ships whilst at sea. Rome was not a major naval power and discovered that, although it was supreme on land, it could not shatter the maritime empire of Carthage. Determined to deploy its infantry at sea, Rome devised a platform that could be lowered from the prow of a ship onto a neighbouring vessel, before a heavy, beak-shaped spike on the underside

pierced the deck of the opposing craft. Roman troops could therefore clamber aboard the enemy vessel. The crow was successfully deployed in a number of engagements but its weight made ships unstable. It appears to have contributed to the loss of two Roman fleets during storms in 255 and 249 BC. MR

**60**

The number of maids of honour in the court of Queen Anne Boleyn.

## WHAT IS IT?

To have smoke coming out of your ears usually means that you're very angry, but this guy, with his tongue cheekily sticking out, doesn't look like he's fuming at all.

He's a 14th-century chimney pot. Made out of clay, he used to stand proudly on the top of a merchant's house in Oxford, where he would vent the smoke from the roaring hearth below out of his ears, eyes, nostrils and mouth. Unfortunately, the years haven't been too kind to our little friend – he's only around 15cm high – as his arms and base were broken when he was removed from the roof, and he spent many years lost. It wasn't until excavation work in the 19th century that people were introduced to him again. He has a new home now: the Ashmolean Museum. [www.ashmolean.org](http://www.ashmolean.org)



**HEAVY SMOKER**  
This cheeky chap used to sit on top of a house in Oxford

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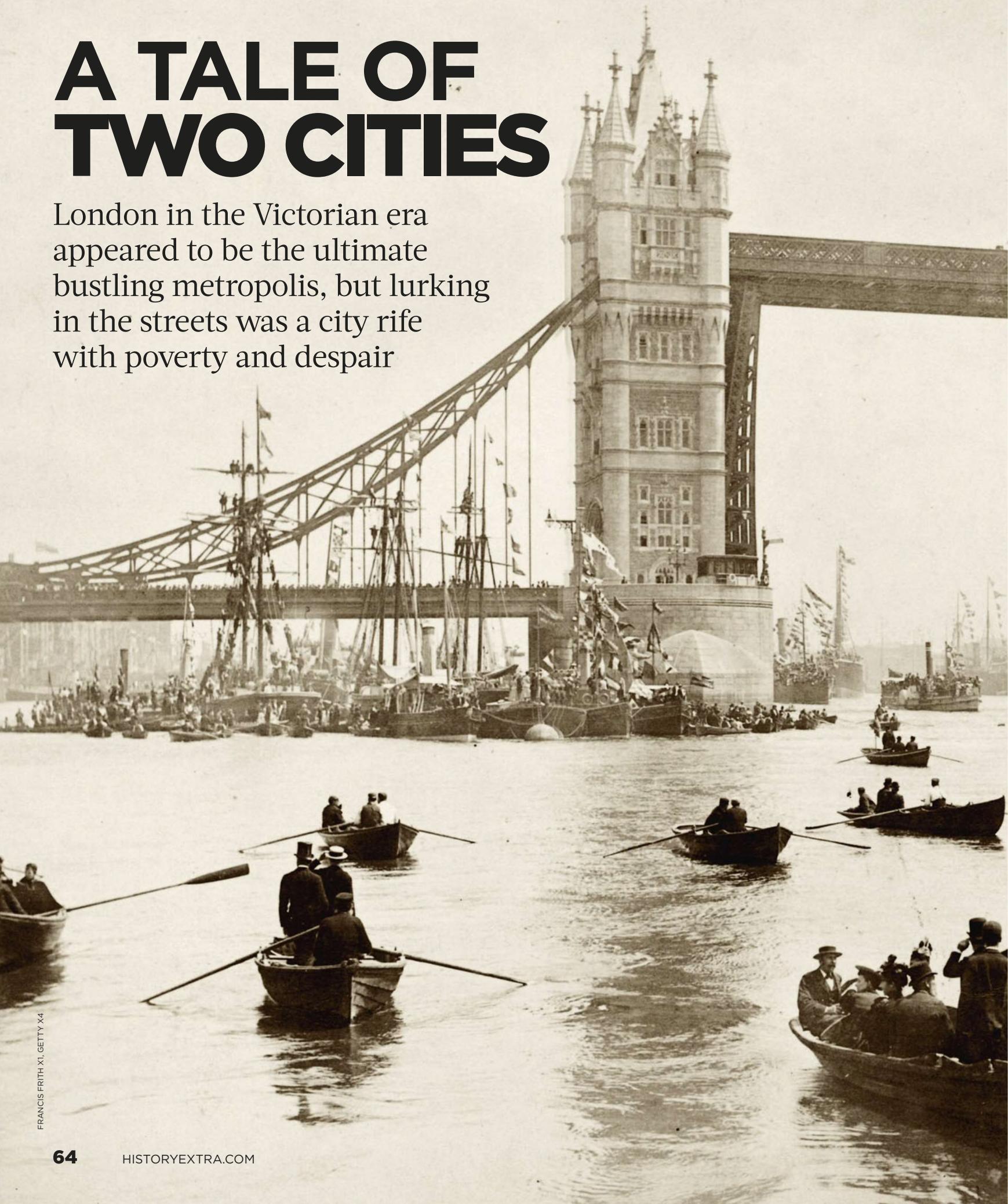


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# A TALE OF TWO CITIES

London in the Victorian era appeared to be the ultimate bustling metropolis, but lurking in the streets was a city rife with poverty and despair



## WORLD'S LARGEST CAPITAL

A symbol of Victorian affluence and technological advancement is Tower Bridge, opened in 1894 with hundreds of people taking to the water to witness the ceremony carried out by the Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII. In 1800, the population of London was about 1 million - a century later, it is nearly seven. During the Victorian era, the capital of the British Empire blossoms into a bustling city and a global trade superpower.



## QUEEN VICTORIA

She reigned for almost 64 years, and her very name is given to a turbulent, radical chapter in Britain's history...



### A ROYAL SOUVENIR

In 1887, 50 years after Victoria came to the throne, the British Empire celebrates the Queen's Golden Jubilee. She had lost popularity during parts of her reign - she became a recluse for a while when her husband, Prince Albert died - but she is a beloved ruler by the time of the celebrations. A host of souvenirs are made for the occasion, including this brochure.



### JUBILANT JUBILEE SCENES

The Golden Jubilee begins lavishly with a grand banquet at Buckingham Palace, attended by some 50 kings and princes. The following day, Victoria travels through London in an open carriage, on her way to Westminster Abbey. People clamber for any vantage point to see the Queen pass, with streets, windows and rooftops bursting with excited men, women and children.



### AGAIN, TEN YEARS LATER...

There are further lavish scenes ten years later when Victoria celebrates her Diamond Jubilee. She is now the longest-reigning monarch in English, Scottish and British history. Troops from all over the Empire are part of the procession, which stretches as far as the eye can see.



## IN PICTURES VICTORIAN LONDON

# WHITE LONDON GREW INCREASINGLY WEALTHY, MILLIONS LIVED, WORKED AND DIED IN THE CITY'S SLUMS

### PARK LIFE

The growth of the railways means that, as well as leaving the city for holidays at the seaside, more people are able to make their way to London to visit the capital's museums and theatres, or walk through the many parks. Hyde Park, pictured here, is the site of the famous Great Exhibition of 1851, which attracts visitors from around the world.

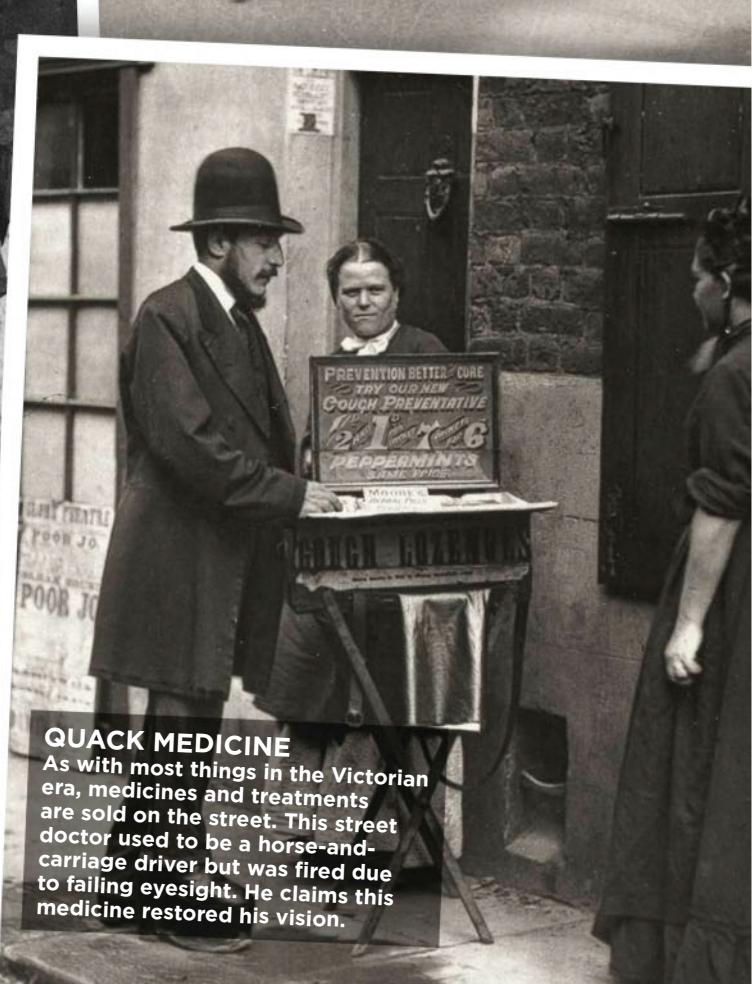
### OVERCROWDED AND OVER HERE

While parts of London give off the impression of affluence and power, others wallow and fester in poverty. To exacerbate problems for the poor, the city is the final destination of many immigrants, including Irish families fleeing the potato famine in the mid-19th century.



### QUACK MEDICINE

As with most things in the Victorian era, medicines and treatments are sold on the street. This street doctor used to be a horse-and-carriage driver but was fired due to failing eyesight. He claims this medicine restored his vision.



# ON THE STREETS

Whether rich or poor, there was always something to keep Londoners entertained on the streets...



## THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT!

The Theatre Royal in Haymarket may be behind them, but these people are more interested in a performance of *Punch and Judy*, a popular if rather violent puppet show. And it isn't only children being entertained. The dour writer Charles Dickens once described the puppetry as a relief "from the realities of life".

## MARKET MAYHEM

With trade bringing in exotic bits and pieces from across the Empire, as well as all the homegrown products, markets in London thrive. Covent Garden, once a place of disrepute known for its taverns and brothels, is injected with new life with grand building projects.



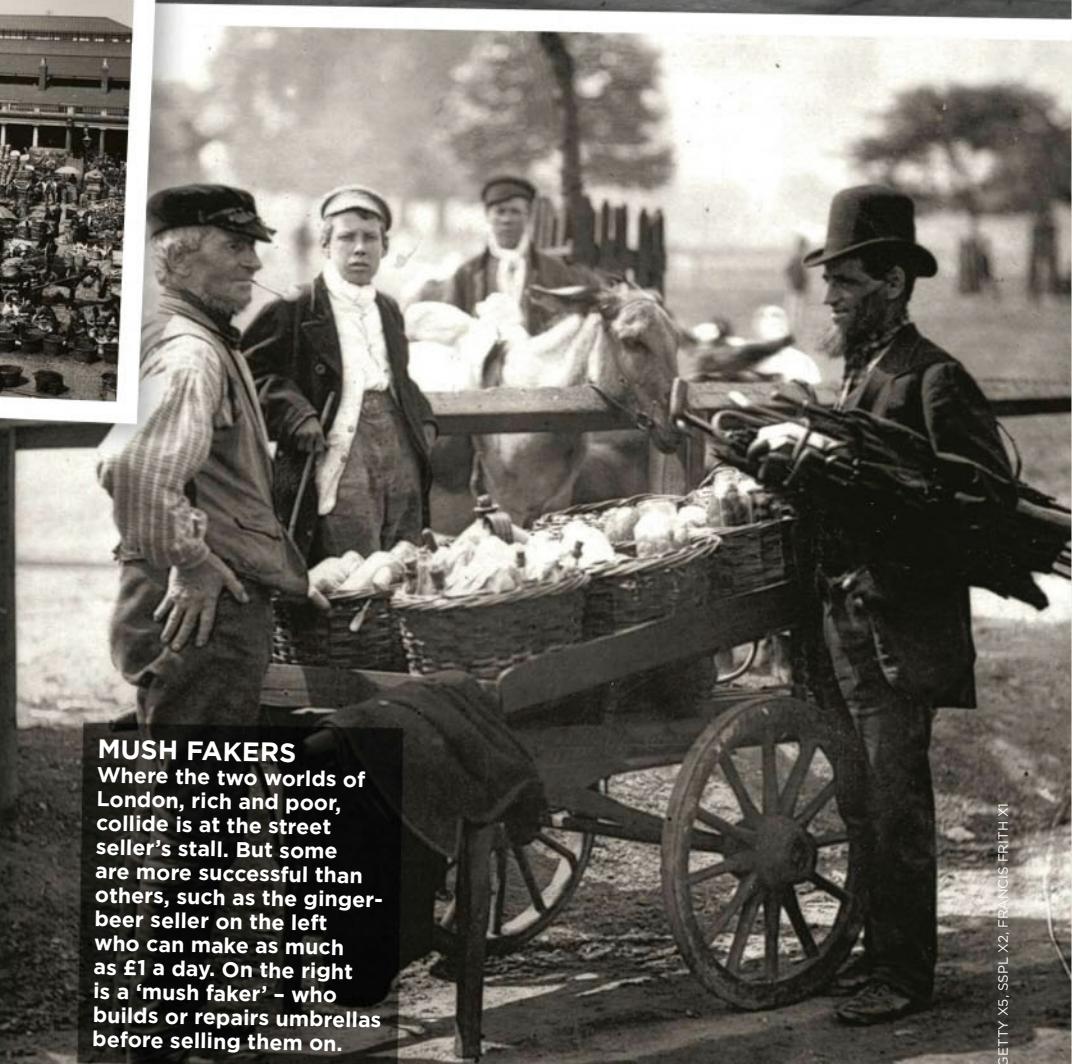
## MONKEY BUSINESS

Another popular form of street entertainment in poorer areas is the barrel organ. Its operator is a grinder – and was commonly an immigrant – and he or she would crank the instrument to start the music automatically playing. A common sight to go along with the organ grinder are monkeys, who performed tricks and are trained to collect the money from onlookers.



## HORSING AROUND

These horses are enjoying a well-earned rest and drink from one of the water troughs dotted around London. Despite the railways, the horse and carriage remains an easy, and relatively cheap, way to get around the city for the well-to-do.



## MUSH FAKERS

Where the two worlds of London, rich and poor, collide is at the street seller's stall. But some are more successful than others, such as the ginger-beer seller on the left who can make as much as £1 a day. On the right is a 'mush faker' – who builds or repairs umbrellas before selling them on.



“THERE IS A NUMEROUS CLASS  
OF PEOPLE IN THIS GREAT  
METROPOLIS WHO SEEM NOT  
TO POSSESS A SINGLE FRIEND.”

SKETCHES BY ‘BOZ’, CHARLES DICKENS



#### AN APPLE A DAY

The impoverished woman selling her goods, be it flowers, clothes or – in the case of this seller in Cheapside – apples is a defining image of Victorian London. This is, in no small part, thanks to Charles Dickens. He campaigned fiercely for improved working conditions and brought the despair of London's poor so vividly to people's attention through his writing, particularly *Oliver Twist*.

# START YOUNG

Crippling poverty and poor working conditions saw children as young as four being put to work...

## CHIM CHIMNEY, CHIM CHIMNEY

Chimney sweeping is a boom business thanks to the Industrial Revolution. Although sweeps are adults, the actual flues are too narrow for them to get up (they can be just 20cm). Young boys are sent up instead. They can easily become trapped, suffocate or be burned to death.



## SHOE-SHINE BOY

A far safer occupation is shoe shining, although the pay is low. Many boys looking for work are orphans but this shiner is trying to raise money to support his mother and invalid father. From 1851, the Shoe-Black Brigade is established to help shoe shiners by finding them relatively well-paid jobs and, in the evenings, giving them a free education in the charitable 'Ragged schools'.

## JAW-DROPPING

As well as working in factories or mines, children are employed in all manner of other occupations, including matchstick selling. They should count themselves lucky, however, that they don't make the matches. This involves using highly poisonous phosphorus, which causes the horrific disease 'phossy jaw'. The jaw slowly rots and the only treatment is to have it amputated.



## VICTORIAN LEGACY

If you walk through London today, there are hundreds of buildings and monuments left over from the Victorians. The clock tower at the Houses of Parliament – pictured c1890 – is one of the city's most iconic landmarks. It was conceived in the 1830s, after the old Palace of Westminster was destroyed, and became a feature of the Victorian London landscape when completed in 1859.





# Death of the King

It was one of the biggest battles on English soil and saw the death of the last British King to be killed in action. **Julian Humphrys** tells the bloody story of the **Battle of Flodden...**

Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, was not a happy man. In May 1513, Henry VIII had invaded France, taking with him the cream of England's nobility, but 70-year-old Surrey had been left behind, to guard England's northern border. Thinking he'd missed the chance to impress his King, Surrey was furious, but as things turned out, he was to win a victory that would overshadow anything Henry would achieve during his brief French adventure.

Henry's invasion of France left James IV of Scotland in rather



### HARD TO HANDLE

The Scots' pikes were far **too long** to make effective weapons when close-quarters fighting broke out.

### FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

The 'Flowers of the Forest' ballad commemorates the Scottish fallen at Flodden. Though most of the **original lyrics were lost**, in the mid-18th century Jean Elliot, daughter of the Lord Justice Clerk, wrote new, now-famous words for the song.

### BITTER BRAWL

Fuelled by a fierce, age-old rivalry, the hand-to-hand combat at Flodden was savage

## BATTLE CONTEXT

### Who

**Scotland** (King James IV)  
35,000 men  
**England** (Earl of Surrey)  
26,000 men

### When

9 September 1513

### Where

Branxton, Northumberland

### Why

Scottish invasion of England to support their French allies

### Outcome

English victory

### Losses

**Scots** c10,000 including James IV  
**English** c4,000

an awkward position. In 1502, he'd signed a peace treaty with England and, a year later, married Henry's sister Margaret. In 1512, however, he'd also agreed an alliance with King Louis XII of France. So when Louis asked him to help by raiding England, James had to decide whether to support his French ally or remain at peace with Henry.

The Scot chose the former and, on 22 August 1513, he crossed the River Tweed with the largest and best-equipped army ever to leave Scotland. Initially, his forces boasted as many as 40,000 men, drawn from all over the kingdom, bolstered by some of the finest siege

artillery in Europe. They quickly began capturing and destroying English castles along the border.

### OLD WARRIOR

On hearing news of the invasion, Surrey hurried north. Although he only had 26,000 men, the old warrior was keen to fight. He knew that a lack of supplies would soon force him to disband his army, leaving the Scots free to raid at will throughout the winter. So, appealing to James's well-known sense of chivalry, he formally challenged the King to a battle. James agreed. Surrey was expecting to fight on level ground at Millfield,

but he soon received unwelcome news. The wily Scottish King had moved his army onto Flodden Edge, a steep hill that rises over 150 metres above the Millfield plain. With the approaches to the hill covered by his mighty guns, James was in a virtually-impregnable position.

Realising that any attempt to attack there would only end in disaster, Surrey sent James a reproachful letter asking him to come down for a fair fight. Predictably, James was having none of it. He sent Surrey a letter of his own saying that "His Grace would take and hold his ground



## BATTLEFIELD FLODDEN, 1513

at his own pleasure and not at the assigning of the Earl of Surrey".

### CHANGE OF PLAN

Surrey now took a bold decision. If he couldn't shift James from the hill by persuasion, he'd do so by manoeuvre. On 8 September, the English broke camp and, in pouring rain, they marched round the eastern flank of the Scottish position, putting themselves between James's army and Scotland.

With Edinburgh only 50 miles away, James feared Surrey may be planning an invasion of his own, and he ordered his army to head north. The next day, the armies met near Branxton village. The English were probably hoping to occupy Branxton Hill, which dominated the area, but James got there first, deploying his troops in four great divisions along the crest of the hill with a fifth in reserve.

With the exception of his Highlanders, who were armed

**26**

The number of Scottish Earls and Lords who were killed at Flodden

with whatever personal weapons they owned, most of James's men were equipped with a fearsome new weapon, the pike. Over 5 metres long, the pike could be devastating in the hands of experienced units, but it took a great deal of training to perfect the drills needed to use it effectively. Unfortunately, James's men had only had a matter of weeks to practice with them. Even so, they had the advantage of both ground and numbers – they must have felt confident of victory as they watched the English army hurriedly assembling below them.

At about 4pm, both armies opened fire. James was likely hoping to use his artillery to goad the English into an uphill advance, but in the event it was the Scots who did the attacking. The problem was that James's guns were just too big. They took an eternity to load and equally long to haul back into position once they'd been fired. Outshot by the lighter English

## TO THE BRAVE OF BOTH NATIONS

The Battle of Flodden was the last and bloodiest battle fought in Northumberland. As well as the death of King James IV, thousands of soldiers lost their lives in the fight. In 1910, a memorial dedicated "To the brave of both nations" was erected at the top of Piper's Hill, overlooking the battlefield.

### SET IN STONE

The granite cross stands on the hill where Thomas Howard Junior's troops were stationed.



**THE OLD DUKE**  
Septuagenarian Surrey was back in with his King

## FAMILY FORTUNES

Victory at Flodden earned Thomas Howard, and his family, some pretty big points with the King. And what do points mean? Well, in this instance, they mean promotion...

The Earl of Surrey's victory at Flodden was a major boost to the fortunes of the Howard family. King Henry VIII rewarded the old warrior by making him Duke of Norfolk, the title his family had lost after backing the wrong side at the Battle of Bosworth 30 years earlier. The Howards were now back in royal favour and two of his granddaughters – Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard – were to marry the king. Yet, as both ladies were to discover to their cost, life in Henry VIII's court was never secure. Norfolk's grandson would be beheaded for treason, and his son only escaped the axe because the King died before his execution could be carried out.

## WEAPONS OF BATTLE

Flodden was fought between two very different armies. Whereas James's army came from all over Scotland and included Highlanders, Lowlanders and Borderers, Surrey's army was exclusively drawn from England's northern counties. The weapons of the opposing forces were also very different...

### LONGBOWS

At 2 metres tall, and with a firing range of 200 metres, the longbow was a deadly weapon. While bad conditions hindered their use at first, the English longbows were used to devastating effect near the end of the fight.



### ENGLISH BILL

A bill was essentially a modified hedging tool. The addition of a spike and hook, meant it could be used to batter, stab or slice or rip the tendons behind the knee.

### SCOTTISH PIKE

The 4.5-metre-long pike carried by the Scots could be a devastating weapon. But it took a lot of training to use effectively and was so long that it was useless at close quarters.



## CLOSE COMBAT

Scottish pikes clash against English bills



**GET THE POINT**  
Re-enactors wield the rather unwieldy pikes

### NEW RECRUITS

The Scots had little time to practice with their new weapons.



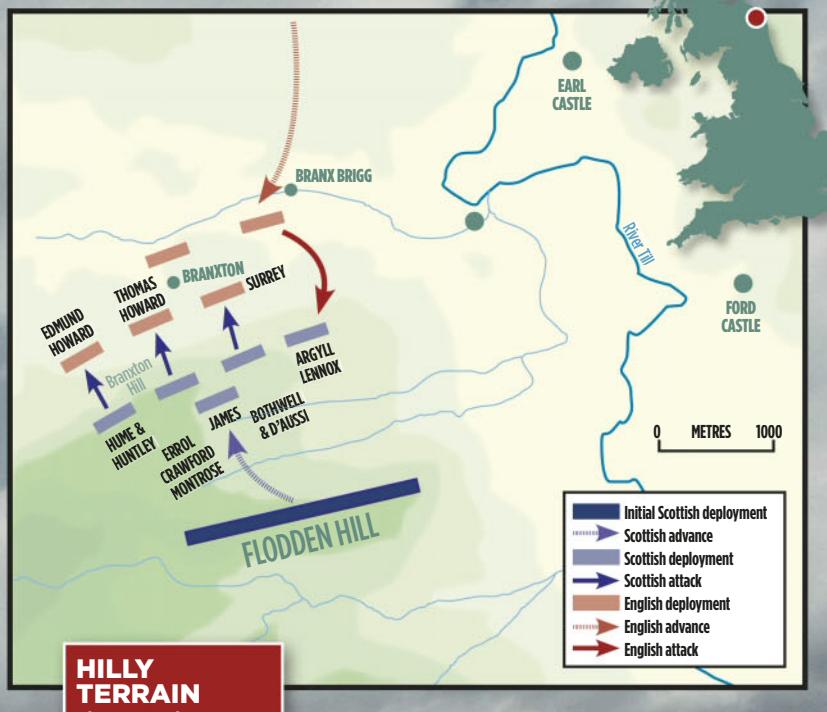
### BADGE OF HONOUR

After victory at Flodden, the Howards were granted an addition to their coat of arms. The tiny inner shield bears the Scottish royal arms of a red lion rampant, struck by an arrow.



### SIZE MATTERS

James IV's huge guns were some of the most powerful in Europe. Ideal for siege warfare, they soon made short work of the stone walls of England's border castles. But, slow to load and difficult to move, they were highly unsuitable for a fast-moving battle. The English guns were smaller, lighter and more mobile.

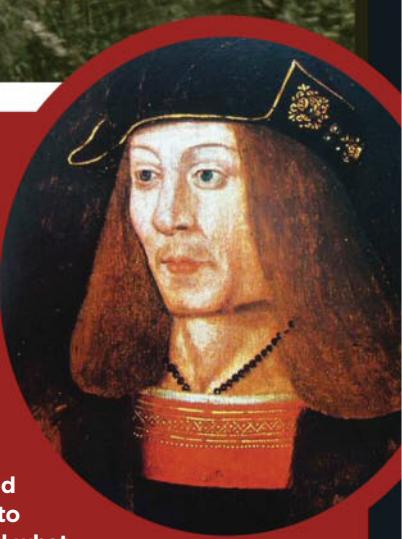


**"Now, Surrey's gunners turned their attention to the Scottish pikemen"**

### BRING OUT THE BODY

The English faced a problem when they found James's body. As a king and brother-in-law of Henry VIII, he was entitled to a decent burial. But because James had broken the Papal-backed treaty of Perpetual Peace, he had been excommunicated, so he couldn't be buried on consecrated ground. James's body was sent south, to Sheen Priory, while the English decided what to do with it. Time went on and soon the body was forgotten about.

Decades later, the corpse came to light (one story claims workmen played football with its head) and it was probably buried there. A golf club now occupies the site where the Priory once stood and, while debate continues about where the body ended up, the likelihood is that it's still there, under what is now the fairway of the 14th hole.



**UNDER THE GREEN**  
James's body ended up in an odd spot

guns, which had a much quicker rate of fire, they gradually fell silent. Now, Surrey's gunners could turn their attention to the Scottish pikemen.

Packed together on the hill, the infantry made an easy target and with Scottish casualties mounting by the minute, James was forced to change his plans and order his men to mount an all-out assault. To the dismay of his advisors, he insisted on grabbing a pike and leading from the front. As the advancing Scots came into range, the archers in Surrey's army loosed their arrows, but high winds and driving rain meant that, on this occasion, the dreaded longbow had little effect.

## FIGHT AND FLIGHT

Lord Home's Borderers on the Scottish left were first to reach the English lines. The gentle, even slope down which they advanced allowed them to maintain a tight formation as they headed for the English right wing, which was under the command of Surrey's son Edmund Howard.

Heavily outnumbered and unnerved by the approaching block of pikemen, many of Howard's men fled, leaving only small groups of Englishmen to fight on desperately. While his standard bearer was hacked to pieces, Howard was knocked to the ground three times by Scots anxious to capture him for ransom. But help was at hand in the form of 1,500 English border horsemen led

by Lord Dacre, a Cumbrian noble. Many of these tough, hard-bitten men had spent their lives fighting the Scots, and they boldly charged Home's soldiers, many of whom were now more interested in looting than fighting, and scattered them in all directions. Howard was rescued by the splendidly-named John Bastard Heron, a ruffian from nearby Ford who was wanted by the Scots for murder.

Eventually, the fighting here died down and the two sides drew apart.

The two central Scottish divisions were having a much tougher time. The steep, uneven ground they had marched down robbed them of their momentum and disorganised their ranks, and a boggy stream at the bottom of the hill worsened matters still. All sense of order was lost and, as the Scots struggled on, the English seized their chance. Led by Surrey and another of

on instead with whatever weapons they had to hand. Even so, they were ruthlessly cut to pieces and, although the division led by James initially pushed the opposing troops back, they were soon brought to a halt.

Meanwhile, on the Scottish right, Argyll and Lennox's Highlanders were about to intervene when they were surprised by the troops of Sir Edward Stanley. His men had managed to climb the eastern slopes of Branxton Hill without being spotted. Stanley's archers poured deadly volleys

## "Hacking, stabbing and slicing, they broke through the ranks"

his sons, Thomas Howard, they rushed forward to attack. Hacking, stabbing and slicing with their deadly bills, they broke through the gaps in the enemy ranks. Long pikes were useless in this kind of close-quarter combat, and soon the Scots were throwing them to the ground, fighting

of arrows into the unarmoured Highlanders before his billmen charged in to finish the job. They then moved down the hill to attack James's division from the rear.

The Scottish army was shattered. Those who could made for the



**RAISE YOUR GLASS**  
A stained-glass window honours the Flodden archers at St Leonard's Church, Greater Manchester

safety of the border. Those who couldn't were shown no mercy. Only nightfall halted the slaughter. Daybreak revealed a scene of indescribable horror. Sprawled on the blood-soaked ground were 14,000 dead and dying men, 10,000 of them Scottish. Among them was James himself. He was the last British King to die in battle, and his death had passed almost completely unnoticed. ◎

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

For the defeated party, panic set in...

The battle had relatively little long-term impact on the English although, of course, matters might well have been very different had they lost. Those south of the border made no attempt to invade Scotland, and instead focussed on repairing the damage caused by the campaign.

It was a different story in Scotland. Fears of an invasion led to a flurry of activity, co-ordinated by James's widow Margaret. Remains of the Flodden Wall, which was refortified in the wake of the battle, can still be seen in Edinburgh. James's death left Scotland with an



**BRACED FOR WAR**  
Edinburgh bolstered its defensive position with Flodden Wall

infant king and this, coupled with the deaths of so many nobles at Flodden, led to decades of political instability in the country.

## GET HOOKED

Find out more about the battle and those involved

### VISIT

Flodden is one of Britain's most evocative and best-interpreted battlefields, and is well worth a visit. For information about the battle while you're there check out the red telephone box in Branxton village. It houses what may well be the world's smallest visitor centre. [www.flodden1513.com](http://www.flodden1513.com)



**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**  
How much has the Battle of Flodden affected English-Scottish relations?  
Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)

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# Festival of the Bizarre

As the summer festival season gets underway, we take a look at the roots of some of the world's most extraordinary events...



## THE NIGHT OF THE RADISHES

The *Noche de Rábanos* is an annual radish-carving festival in Oaxaca, Mexico. Every 23 December, the humble red-and-white root is transformed into sculptures and celebrated – but, why? No one really knows for sure, but one story wins out in the hearts of the locals: in the 18th century, a couple of friars harvested a long-forgotten crop of oversized and misshapen veg. They looked so entertaining, the holy men took them to the Christmas market, where they inspired copy-cat carvers.

ALAMY X2, ISTOCK X1, GETTY X6, MARY EVANS XI



## CHEESE ROLLING

The first-known occasion on which Brits threw themselves down Cooper's Hill, Gloucestershire, after a 7-8lb wheel of Double Gloucester was in 1826, but the event is widely thought to be far older than that. Local stories date back to the 1700s, and it may even have Pagan origins.

During WWII rationing, there wasn't enough cheese for the festival to go ahead. But the would-be fromagers weren't going to let that stop them. They tumbled after a wooden wheel, instead.

## BABY JUMPING

Spain is famous for its out-there festivals – there's goat-dropping, tomato-throwing, not to mention the bull run. But none come close to the annual baby-jumping festival, *El Colacho*, held in Castrillo de Murcia. Local men, dressed as devils, leap over rows of babies in a custom that supposedly dates back to the 1620s. This, according to tradition, cleanses the babies of original sin and ensures their safe passage through life.



## CLIMBING A TOWER MADE OF BUNS

Every May, on the Chinese island of Cheung Chau, bamboo towers covered in buns are constructed, and a party begins. The finale sees local men scale the towers, grabbing as many rolls as they can. They do this in honour of the god Pak Tai who, so one legend claims, saved the island from plague in the 19th century.



## FROZEN DEAD GUY DAYS

With coffin races and a hearse parade, this Colorado festival is pretty macabre. Its story begins in 1989, with the death of Norwegian-born Bredo 'Grandpa' Morstoel. His family cryogenically froze him at home, DIY-style. Which was odd, but fine – at least until the authorities found out in 1994. After initially wanting to bury Grandpa, the town relented, instead allowing him to stay frozen and inspiring this darkly comic festival.



## CAT HURLING

This cat-themed festival in Ypres, Belgium, culminates in the flinging of fake felines from a belfry. It is a modern nod to a gruesome practice that dates back to at least 1410: throwing live cats. While kitty torture was quite common at the time (it was thought mogs had supernatural connections), there is another possible origin. The custom may have been a semi-practical solution to an infestation of cats, which itself could have been the result of an influx of rats.



## KONAKI SUMO

Usually Sumo wrestlers take part in battles of super-human proportions, but at a Konaki ('crying') festival, the bout is on a mini-human scale. Babes in hand, two fighters square up, and wait for the first infant to wail. Over 400 years old, it's inspired by a Japanese proverb: 'Crying babies grow fast'.

## GOOSE PULLING

A number of European countries dedicate a day to the celebration of a blood sport from the Middle-Ages: goose pulling. The unfortunate fowl is suspended by its feet, as men and women try to rip the goose's head from its body. Nowadays, the bird tends to be dead before the contest begins.



## CAMEL WRESTLING

The colourful Camel Wrestling Festival that tours Turkey each winter is as much about pomp and circumstance as it is dromedary duels. The humped-warriors are dressed up and paraded about – there's even a beauty contest – before the bouts begin. It's small wonder there's so much ritual: the custom is thought to stretch back thousands of years.



The camels used to be taunted into battle by females, but today they are just frustrated virgins.



## LAS BOLAS DE FUEGO

In this 'Balls of Fire' festival, held every August in Nejapa, El Salvador, combatants literally hurl fireballs at each other. The villagers consider it a re-enactment of a fight that Saint Jeronimo had with the devil, to save Nejapa when it was threatened by volcanic eruption in the 17th century.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Have you been to any of these fascinating festivals? Let us know...  
Email: editor@historyrevealed.com



## GREAT ADVENTURES COCKLESHELL HEROES

ALAMY X1, MAIN IMAGE FROM COCKLESHELL RAID BY PAUL OLDFIELD (COPYRIGHT: PEN AND SWORD BOOKS)



# COCKLESHELL HEROES

The canoeing commandos of WWII's Operation Frankton had an audacious mission: to sneak past the Nazis and blow up Bordeaux harbour. **Pat Kinsella** follows the action...

# “You do realise, if you join my unit your **expectations of a long life are very remote?**”

Major Hasler to the volunteers joining his Royal Marines Boom Patrol Detachment



## COME HELL OR HIGH WATER

Armed with little more than oars and some explosives, this silent unit faces almost certain death as it silently slips into Nazi-occupied France



## GREAT ADVENTURES COCKLESHELL HEROES

Only when they were on a submarine, powering away from Scotland into the frigid waters of the North Atlantic, were the 12 men in Major Herbert 'Blondie' Hasler's recently formed special unit told what they'd really signed up for.

The group had been undergoing rigorous canoe training for some eight months, and the rumour was that they were going to see action in Norway. Instead, they were bound for Bordeaux – to make Special Forces' history.

Even during the recruitment process for the Royal Marines Boom Patrol Detachment (RMBPD) – part of Churchill's newly created Combined Operations Headquarters – Hasler had spelled out the unlikely prospect of reaching retirement age for those joining his unit. Most of the young men suspected this was a one-way ticket, and this was quickly confirmed during Hasler's briefing.

Their mission was to paddle six two-man canoes, under the winter-thick cloak of darkness, up a 70-mile-long estuary over three consecutive nights, penetrating into possibly the world's most heavily guarded port, where they would attach limpet mines to strategically selected ships and then retreat. But not back to the submarine – that would be long gone.

"How do we get back home, sir?" One of the men asked.

"You walk." Hasler told them. Across occupied France, over the Pyrenees into neutral Spain, and then to Gibraltar. Hasler was serious. The prospect of a long life never looked so remote. They couldn't even speak French.

### BLOCKADE BUSTERS

Combined Ops, under Lord Mountbatten, had decided that these men – along with their semi-collapsible Mark II 'Cockle' canoes – were the answer to the pressing 'Bordeaux Problem'.

Desperately overstretched, Britain was increasing aware that ships from Asia were routinely outrunning their submarines and destroyers, reaching Europe packed with materials crucial for the Third Reich's war effort. Many ended up in the well-protected port of Bordeaux on the massive Gironde Estuary.

To win the Battle of the Atlantic, Churchill needed this problem sorted, but resources and manpower were desperately short. The Admiralty considered Bordeaux too far up the Gironde estuary to be a realistic target for their boats, and the RAF feared aerial bombing would cost too many French civilian lives, turning public opinion against the Allies.

Whitehall had to be inventive – that's when they remembered a rejected concept put forward by a resourceful, if eccentric, Royal Marine named Hasler. He'd proposed engaging the enemy with canoe-based commandos. In late 1941, with the outlook on the Atlantic darkening daily, his plan suddenly seemed much more attractive.

### THE MAIN PLAYERS



#### MAJOR HERBERT HASLER

Awarded the Distinguished Service Order. Post-war, he became a solo sailor, finishing second in the first single-handed transatlantic race.



#### CORPORAL BILL SPARKS

Awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Sparks served in Burma, Africa and Italy before becoming a bus driver and inspector. He died in 2002.

#### CREW OF THE COALFISH

Wallace and Ewart capsized near Pointe de Grave lighthouse. Washed up on land, they were captured, questioned and illegally executed.

#### CREW OF THE CONGER

Sheard and Moffatt likely died swimming for shore. Moffatt's frozen body was found on 14 December. It is not clear what became of Sheard.

#### CREW OF THE CUTTLEFISH

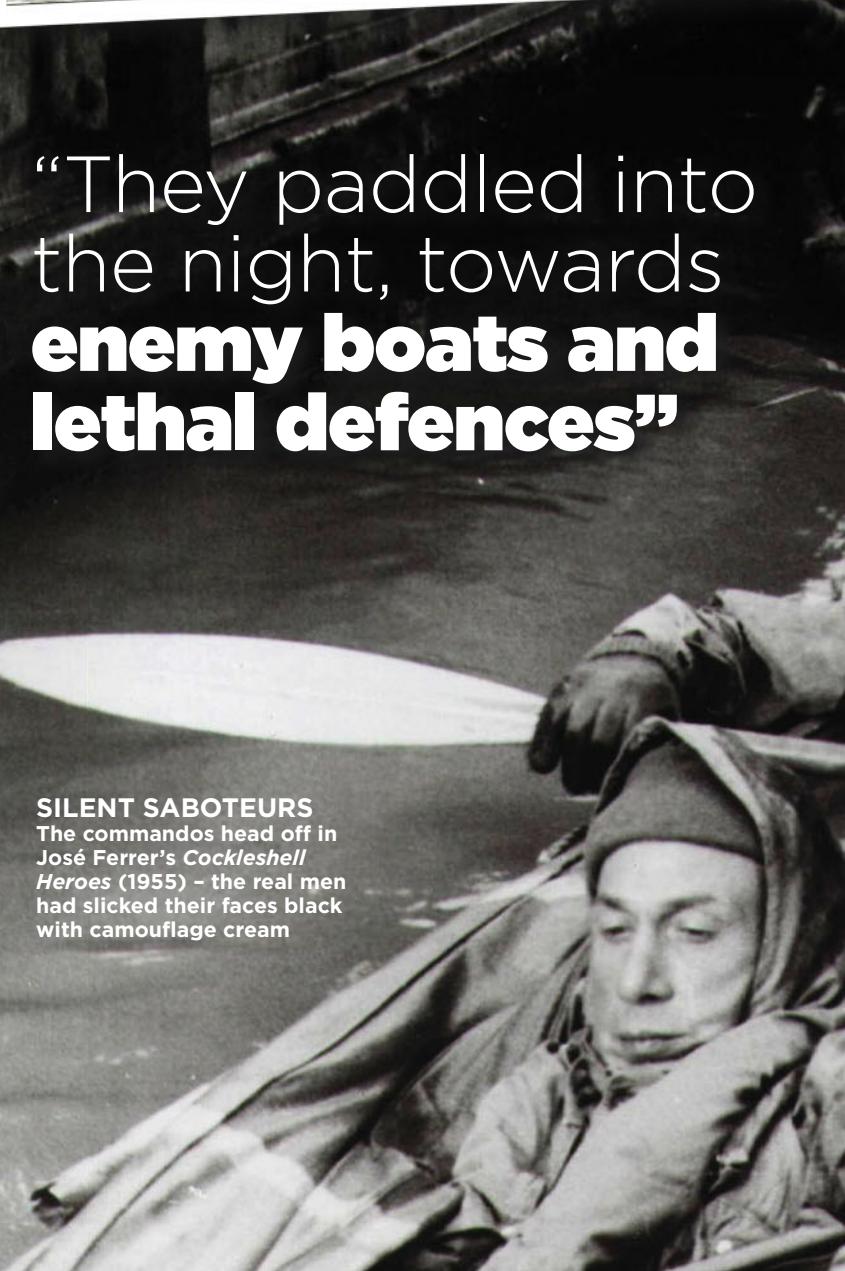
MacKinnon and Conway were separated from the unit but continued with the mission. They were betrayed at La Réole, caught and executed.

#### CREW OF THE CRAYFISH

Laver and Mills finished the mission, but made it just 19 miles before they were picked up by police, and executed by the Germans.

### OPERATION FRANKTON

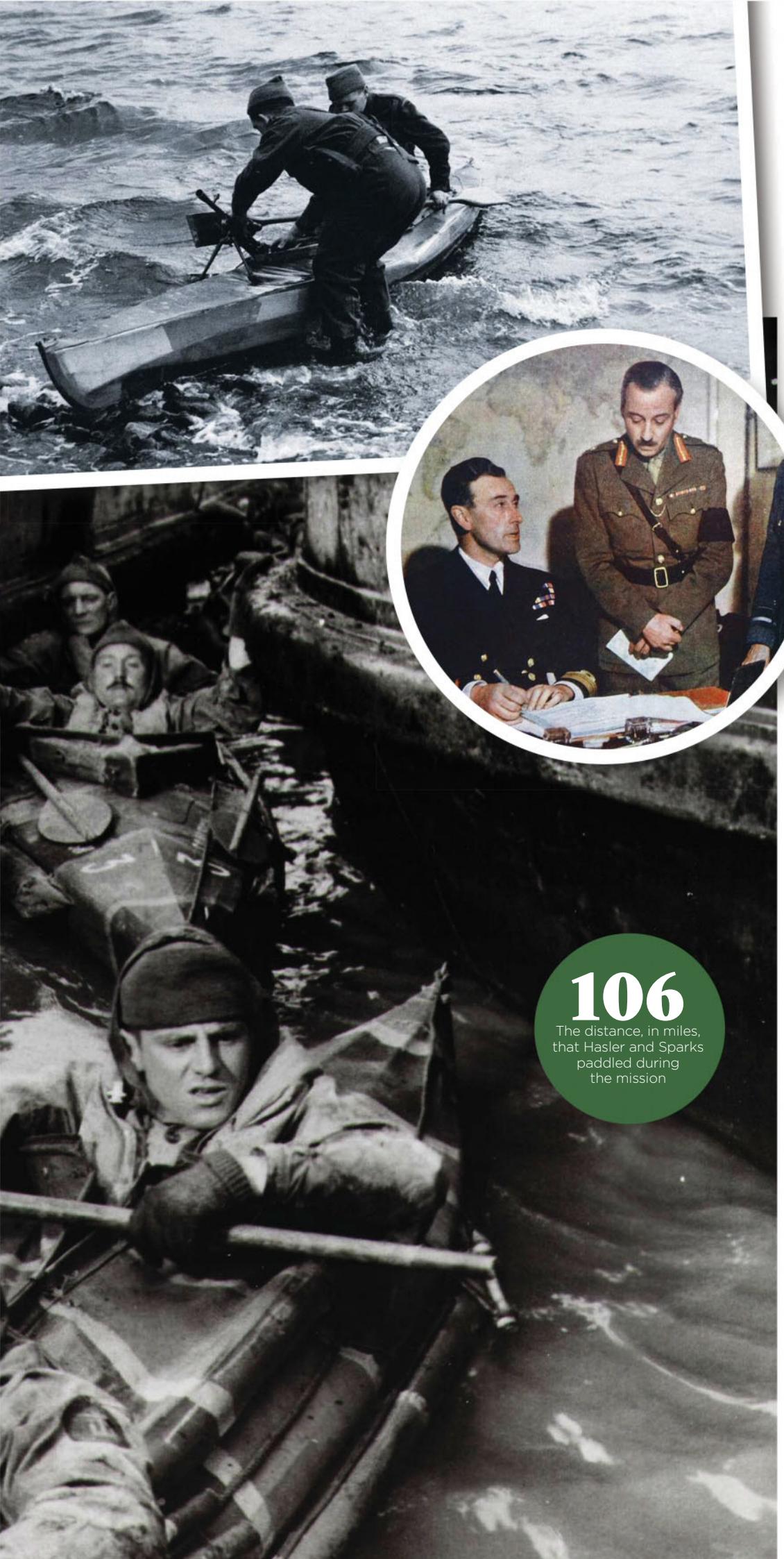
**BELOW:** HMS *Tuna*, the submarine that delivered Hasler's team to the Bay of Biscay  
**RIGHT:** Two men set out in a Mark II collapsible canoe, given the codename 'Cockle'  
**BELOW RIGHT:** Lord Mountbatten (left) meets with staff at Combined Operations HQ, London



"They paddled into the night, towards **enemy boats and lethal defences**"

#### SILENT SABOTEURS

The commandos head off in José Ferrer's *Cockleshell Heroes* (1955) – the real men had slicked their faces black with camouflage cream



# 106

The distance, in miles,  
that Hasler and Sparks  
paddled during  
the mission

Hasler was invited back to Whitehall, interviewed by Mountbatten and given his own unit to build and train, but it wasn't until 21 September 1942 that he found out what they were training for.

After a briefing about the blockade busters hiding out in Bordeaux, Hasler devised a fully fleshed-out plan overnight. Mountbatten made just two changes, increasing the number of canoes from three to six ("In case of accidents") and insisting that Hasler himself remain behind, as he was too important to risk with an active role in the mission. The Major made an impassioned appeal, stating his case for going, and Mountbatten relented.

After several more weeks of intensive training around Portsmouth, sometimes at night, Hasler handpicked his attack squad. They were split into two divisions, each containing three two-man boats with specified targets to hit once in position.

In Division A, Hasler would be joined by Corporal Bill Sparks in a canoe called *Catfish*, Corporal Albert Laver and Marine William Mills were in *Crayfish*, and Corporal George Sheard and Marine David Moffatt would paddle *Conger*. B Division placed Lieutenant John MacKinnon with Marine James Conway in *Cuttlefish*, Sergeant Samuel Wallace and Marine Robert Ewart in *Coalfish*, and Marine William Ellery and Marine Eric Fisher in *Cachalot*. A 13th man – Marine Norman Colley – was taken as a reserve.

## INTO THE ARMS OF DEATH

HMS *Tuna* surfaced a couple of miles off the French coast at 19:17 on 7 December 1942. Between 19:36 and 20:03, five cockle canoes were winched over the edge of the submarine, each containing two camouflaged commandos, a small amount of food and clothing, some spare paddles and eight limpet mines. Lieutenant-Commander Dick Raikes, *Tuna*'s skipper, described them as a "Magnificent bunch of black-faced villains". Blondie Hasler said he'd be back in March and told Raikes to book a table for lunch at the Savoy for 2 April.

The sixth canoe, *Cachalot*, was snagged and tore while passing through the hatch. Despite tears of protest from Fisher, Hasler ordered them off the mission. Colley was told he wasn't required either, and the ten remaining men paddled into the night, towards an estuary mouth bristling with enemy boats and lethal defences manned by thousands of Germans.

Most of the men had begun canoeing as rank amateurs just eight months previously, and the sea proved their greatest enemy. Two hours in, they hit the first of three tidal overfalls – patches of dangerously agitated water caused when tides collide over shallow spots – which hadn't been marked on their maps. For all his planning, knowledge and skill, these took Hasler by surprise. The result was disastrous.

Suddenly, they were fighting utterly unpredictable metre-high waves. Screaming





## GREAT ADVENTURES COCKLESHELL HEROES

instructions about keeping the boats' bows pointing into the water, Hasler punched though with Sparks in *Catfish*. *Crayfish*, *Conger* and *Cuttlefish* all followed, but *Coalfish* disappeared.

The second overfall was worse still, with even higher waves. *Conger* capsized, throwing Sheard and Moffatt into the brine. Unable to right the stricken canoe, the team scuttled it and towed the two freezing men through the remaining tidal rush and into the estuary, where they were taken as close to shore as possible and told they'd have to swim for it.

It was, by now, impossible for the commandos to reach the east bank before dawn as planned, and they were forced to paddle very close to several anchored enemy boats. They split up to avoid detection, but once the danger had passed, *Cuttlefish* failed to re-join the group.

In just ten hours, Hasler's task force of 13 had been whittled down to four. Shattered, the remaining men – Hasler and Sparks in *Catfish* and Laver and Mills in *Crayfish* – pulled into Pointe aux Oiseaux to rest for the day. They were discovered by sympathetic French fishermen at daybreak, who pointed out a safer hiding spot and later returned with food.

Hasler led his depleted team up the estuary over the next three nights, resting during the intervening days at Port des Callonges and then l'Île Cazeau. Shortly before dawn on 11 December, the four men pulled *Catfish* and *Crayfish* into the reeds at Bassens Pontoon Pier, just shy of 2 miles from Bordeaux.

At 21:15 that night, Hasler and Sparks paddled *Catfish* into Bordeaux and placed eight limpet bombs on four ships on the west bank. At one stage, a boat sentry shone a flashlight directly down onto the canoe, but the disciplined commandos froze and the camouflage worked. Meanwhile, in *Crayfish*, Laver and Mills crossed to the east bank, directly opposite Bassens, where they placed their charges on two boats.

### ON THE RUN

The men had six hours to get away before the charges began to go off. Purely by chance, the two teams met on l'Île Cazeau, from where they paddled together to Blaye, landing 400 metres apart and scuttling the canoes.

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Strategically and militarily, the mission's achievements were meagre. The boats bombed were all empty, and they only sank a few feet before coming to rest on the shallow bottom of the harbour – all were quickly back in use.

Worse, unbeknown to Hasler or his Combined Ops' superiors, the Special Operation Executive – a different and, in some respects, rival Whitehall department – had

a team of agents on the Bordeaux docks at exactly the same time. This unit was scouting for an operation to blow up a number of boats at a more strategically advantageous juncture, but instead saw all their reconnaissance devastated by Hasler's mines.

However, the Cockleshell heroes blew a hole in German confidence that wasn't as easy to patch as their boats. And the horror of so

many dedicated men giving their lives virtually in vain because of inter-departmental factionalism galvanised Whitehall to sort itself out. The departments came together to ensure such doubling of effort, resources and risk taking never happened again and, within a couple of years, all three forces and the secret services pulled together to extraordinary effect in the planning and execution of D-Day.

The explosions – music to the men's ears – began at 03:50 and continued for hours. By this stage, they had again split into two teams and were travelling overland, using silk maps. They had a choice: move at night, wearing uniform in the hope that, if caught, they'd be treated as prisoners of war; or pretend to be civilians and travel during daylight, knowing they'd be shot as spies if apprehended.

Hasler and Sparks wore uniforms for two nights, before donning civilian attire given to them by friendly French farmers and villagers, who also supplied them with food and sometimes shelter.

At Ruffec, they expected to be met by the French Resistance, but no one was waiting. Serendipity led the fugitives to Café des Sports, a restaurant run by sympathetic owners, who put them in touch with the local Resistance. They were fed into the 'Marie-Claire' escape line, organised by English woman Mary Lindell.

This network saw Hasler and Sparks safely to Lyon, then Marseille, Perpignan and finally Céret, from where they trekked over the Pyrenees to Banyoles in Spain and reached the British Consul in Barcelona.

Having spent months in each other's company in the most extraordinary circumstances, the two men were finally separated for the last part of their journey. Sparks sailed back to England from Gibraltar, while Hasler was flown back from Madrid – arriving on 1 April 1943 – just in time to meet Lieutenant-Commander Raikes for lunch at the Savoy. ☀

### GET HOOKED

#### VISIT

See the only surviving canoe from the operation at the Combined Military Services Museum, Essex. [www.cmsm.co.uk](http://www.cmsm.co.uk)

#### READ

*Cockleshell Raid* by Paul Oldfield (Pen and Sword Books) offers a detailed account.

## THE LION'S MOUTH

The Germans had two armed trawlers guarding the mouth of the estuary, and a few more trawlers and six minesweepers in the area too. There were at least 24 armed boats on the water – plus, potentially, U-boats, beneath the waves – and plenty of machine-gun posts on land. Yet it was nature, not Nazi defences, that proved most problematic for the unit.

### THE MISSION

#### 1 30 NOVEMBER 1942,

Holy Loch, Scotland

Royal Navy submarine HMS *Tuna* sets off with the special unit and six canoes aboard – of the commandos, only Hasler knows their true destination.

#### 2 7 DECEMBER

10 miles south-west from the mouth of the Gironde Estuary

Five canoes are launched between 19:36 and 20:03. The sixth, *Cachalot*, is holed while being moved and its crew Ellery and Fisher are forced to stay behind.

#### 3 AROUND 22:00, 7 DECEMBER

Off Pointe de Grave

The unit hits rough seas. *Coalfish* is separated from the group and *Conger* capsizes. Their canoe gone, Sheard and Moffatt are towed into the estuary.

#### 4 NIGHT OF 7-8 DECEMBER

Off Le Verdon

Sheard and Moffatt attempt to swim to shore. The canoes split up to avoid being seen by nearby enemy ships. *Cuttlefish* fails to rejoin the group and is lost.

#### 5 PREDAWN 8 DECEMBER

Pointe aux Oiseaux

The two remaining teams – Hasler and Sparks in *Catfish* and Laver and Mills in *Crayfish* – pull ashore to rest.

The same day, Wallace and Ewart, of the *Coalfish*, are captured at Pointe de Grave. They claim to be sailors swept overboard but, when their canoe is found two days later, the Nazis become aware of a mission. The pair are executed shortly after.

#### 6 10 DECEMBER

L'Île Cazeau

Having stayed the previous day at Port des Callonges, the four men in *Catfish* and *Crayfish* take refuge here on day three. Unknown to either party, the lost *Cuttlefish* crew of MacKinnon and Conway are also sheltering on this island at the same time.

#### 7 11 DECEMBER

Bassens Pontoon Pier

The mission lengthened by a day, the four men in *Catfish* and *Crayfish* hide in the reeds nearly 2 miles from Bordeaux itself and prepare to launch their attack.

#### 8 21:15, 11 DECEMBER

Bordeaux Harbour

Hasler and Sparks place their mines on ships on the west bank, while Laver and Mills place theirs on boats on the east bank, directly opposite Bassens.

From  
Holy Loch,  
Scotland

1

## THE MISSION GIRONDE ESTUARY

### THE ESCAPE

#### 9 12 DECEMBER Blaye

Having met again by chance on l'Île Cazeau, the crews of *Catfish* and *Crayfish* paddle to this point, landing 400 metres apart, before they split up and set off on foot.

#### 10 14 DECEMBER Montlieu

Laver and Mills are picked up by French police and turned over to the Germans.

#### 11 15 DECEMBER Nîmes

Hasler and Sparks are taken in by a friendly French family.

#### 12 18 DECEMBER Ruffec

Hasler and Sparks make contact with the local French Resistance and enter the 'Marie-Claire' escape line.

#### 13 18 DECEMBER La Réole

Cuttlefish's MacKinnon and Conway are arrested, possibly while boarding a train. It is thought that they're executed on the same day as Laver and Mills – 23 March 1943.

#### 14 1 MARCH 1943 Perpignan

Having been smuggled through Lyon and Marseille, Hasler and Sparks arrive here, where they travel to Céret and cross the Pyrenees to Banyoles in Spain.



10,000

Estimated number  
of German troops  
protecting the Gironde  
Estuary at the time of  
the mission

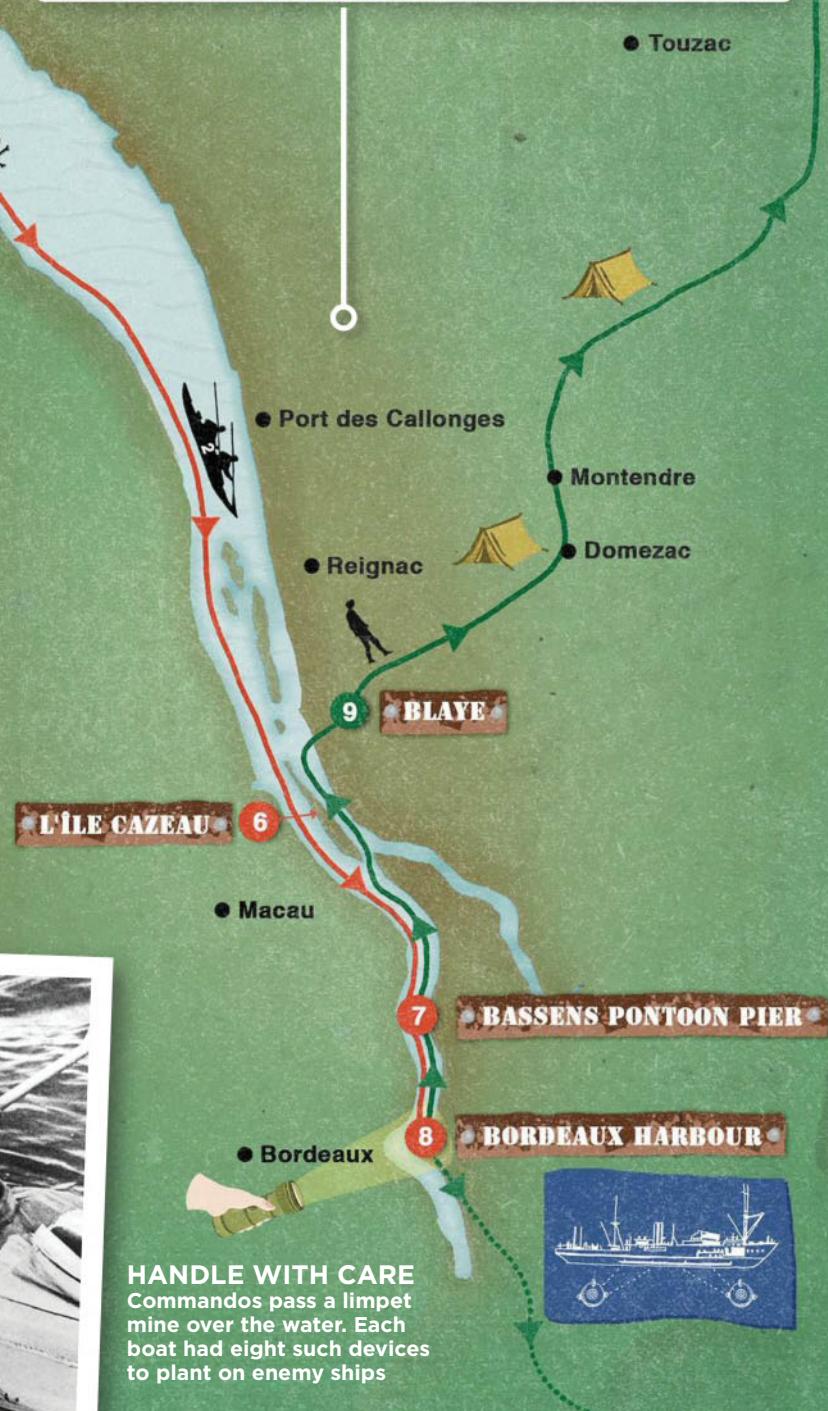
### THE ESCAPE



FRANCE



- Mission route
- Escape routes
- No of canoes
- Rough seas
- Overnight stay
- Shelter
- Captured
- Casualty



# Evita

**Tom Symmons** follows the real life of Eva Perón, whose poverty-to-politics story inspired the smash musical

**G**lamorous, passionate, charismatic and ruthlessly ambitious, Eva Perón, born María Eva Duarte on 7 May 1919, had all the qualities

needed to rise up and become an influential figure in her home country of Argentina. And Eva made quite the rise, starting life, as she did, in the depths of poverty and ending up the most powerful woman in the country, as its First Lady.

During her meteoric rise, she became a leading and incredibly beloved political figure. Ardent in her efforts to alleviate the biggest problems faced by the poor and to support the campaign for women's suffrage, she was considered a living saint by millions of Argentinians, who fondly called her 'Evita' (little Eva). She was not without her critics, however, who claimed she was driven by a callous desire to succeed.

Her dazzling life story, full of controversy and no small amount of sex appeal, became the subject of the epic musical hit, *Evita* (1996), adapted from the stage production by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. With a heartfelt performance by Madonna, the movie bagged many awards, and brought Eva's tale to a new generation.

## BUMPY START

However bright her legacy, there was little in the way of glamour during Eva's upbringing. Her humble start began in the village of Los Toldos, some 200 miles west of the capital, Buenos Aires, as one of five children born to Juan Duarte and Juana Ibaguren. The couple never married and the children grew up in desperate poverty, which was made much worse after Eva's father lost his job.

Then, in 1926, Juan died in a car accident so the family moved to the town of Junín. The children were able to attend school while their mother repaired clothing – when she could get work – to make ends meet. Growing up,



the young Eva had few friends, as her illegitimacy was scandalous.

Eva became fascinated with the movies, especially Hollywood, and dreamed of escaping her life of misfortune to become an actress in Buenos Aires. In the mid 1930s, when she was still a teenager, Eva moved to the capital having landed a small radio role.

The Great Depression had its claws in the city and opportunities were scarce, but Eva never lost her determination. After her radio contract came to an end, she found work with various theatre troupes and, in 1937, landed her first film role. She also started modelling.

In 1939, Eva set up her own radio entertainment business: the Company of the Theatre of the Air. The group produced radio programmes and, in 1943, she achieved a major success – a series in which she portrayed famous women from history, including Queen Elizabeth I and Catherine the Great.

Although Eva's rise has been linked to her relationships with increasingly influential men, by her early 20s she had escaped the shame of her impoverished



**"I am only a radio star with just one weekly show..."**

MAIN: Wielding their personal identification cards, Buenos Aires women are off to vote, in 1951, for the first time

LEFT: Madonna broadcasts to the nation as Eva Perón in *Evita*

childhood. Her career was flourishing, she was wealthy and she lived in an upmarket neighbourhood.

## THE WAY TO THE TOP

In 1944, Eva started a relationship with 48-year-old Army Colonel Juan Perón, one of the most powerful men in Argentina. After the military took control of the Argentinian government in 1943, Perón became Labour minister and distinguished himself as a champion of the working classes, who were known as the *descamisados*, or 'shirtless ones'. He encouraged the country's labourers to form unions, thereby giving them the

### THE FACTS

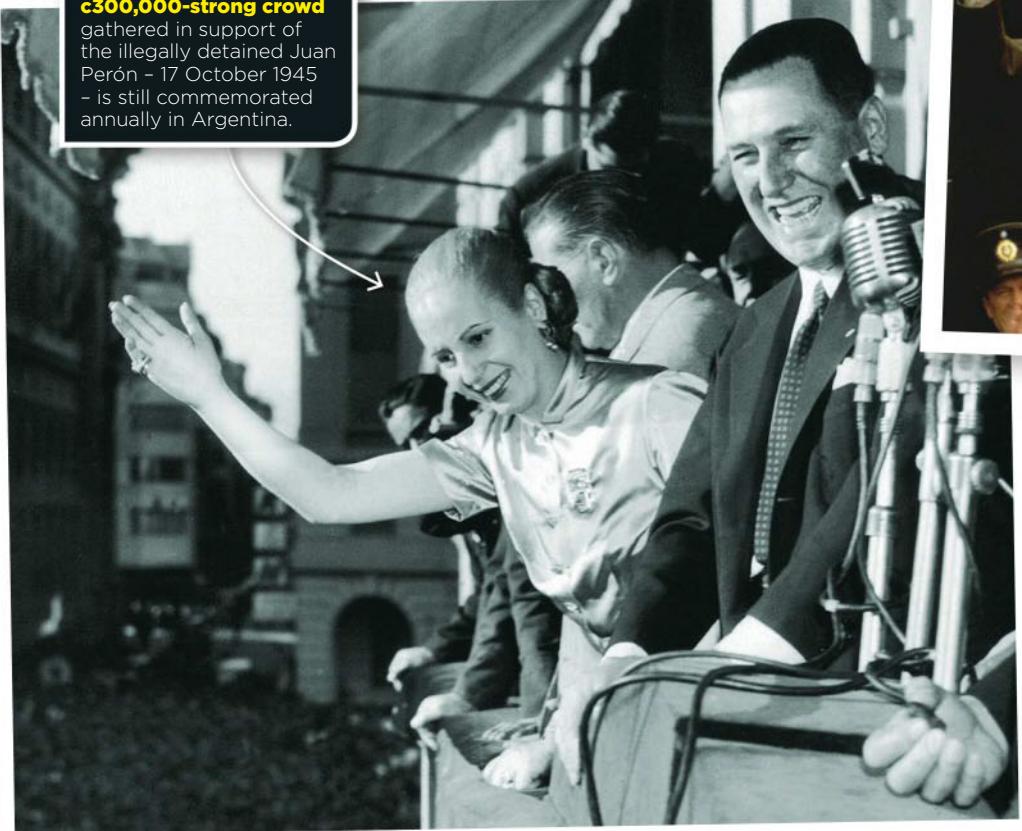
Release date: 1996  
Director:  
Alan Parker  
Cast:  
Madonna,  
Jonathan Pryce,  
Antonio Banderas,  
Jimmy Nail



**“Evita was considered a living saint by millions of Argentinians.”**

**LOYALTY DAY**

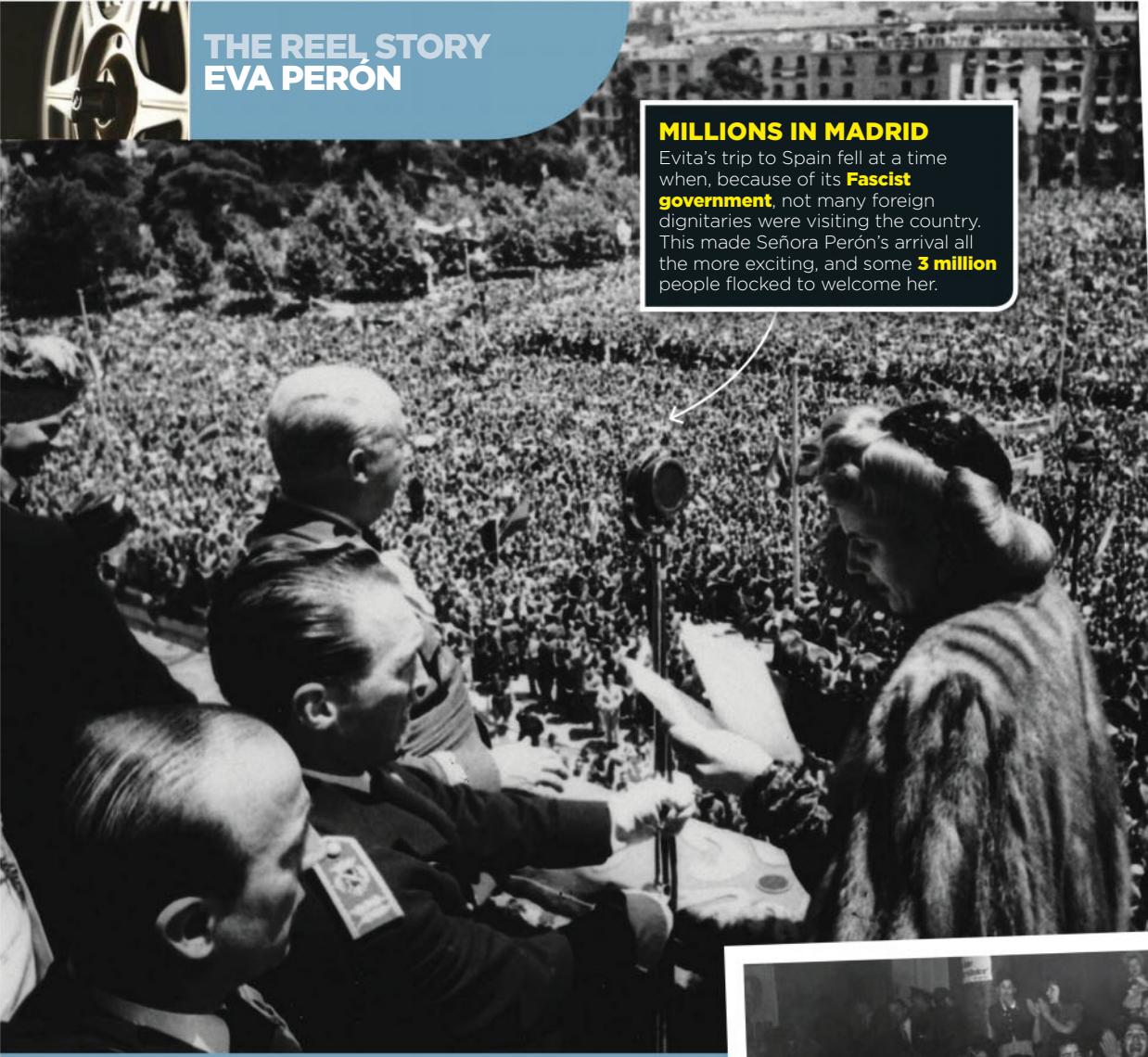
The day on which a **c300,000-strong crowd** gathered in support of the illegally detained Juan Perón - 17 October 1945 - is still commemorated annually in Argentina.



**“Just listen to that!  
The voice of  
Argentina!  
We are adored!  
We are loved!”**

LEFT: The Peróns smile for the public on the fifth anniversary of the Perónist movement, in 1950

ABOVE: Madonna and Jonathan Pryce charm a crowd as the Perón power couple



### MILLIONS IN MADRID

Evita's trip to Spain fell at a time when, because of its **Fascist government**, not many foreign dignitaries were visiting the country. This made Señora Perón's arrival all the more exciting, and some **3 million** people flocked to welcome her.

## "People of Europe, I send you the rainbow of Argentina."

ABOVE: On her 'Rainbow Tour' of Europe, Eva speaks to a massive Spanish crowd from the Royal Palace balcony in Madrid, June 1947

RIGHT: At home, the First Lady visits the children of the Eva Perón Foundation. One of the aims of her charity, launched in 1948, was to assist impoverished children



◀ freedom to organise and strike for better pay and working conditions. Already hugely popular with the masses, Juan Perón's connection to Eva – the actress of humble origin – boosted his populist image. On her radio show, Eva used her skills to promote her lover, highlighting their shared working-class roots to appeal to ordinary Argentinians.

### UNSTOPPABLE PAIR

By 1945, Juan Perón's opponents in the administration feared his popularity was eclipsing that of the country's President, Edelmiro Julián Farrell. In an attempt to check his political rise, Perón was forced to resign and taken into custody. But hundreds of thousands of his loyal supporters took to the streets chanting 'Perón!', bringing the capital to a grinding halt and forcing his release.

A few days later, Eva's life changed dramatically when she married Juan in a small civil ceremony.

Encouraged by the demonstration following his arrest, Juan ran for president the next year. Eva campaigned with her husband across the country, and continued to use her radio show to deliver powerful speeches praising her husband's patriotism and desire for social justice. It was during her entry into politics that Eva Perón became Evita to her millions of admirers. Juan won the election in a landslide.

Eva embraced her role as First Lady, but developed a dual personality. As the

Eva shakes hands with General Franco in Madrid, 1947



President's glamorous wife, she performed her ceremonial duties, but as Evita she unofficially ran the Ministries of Labour and Health, met face-to-face with the poor who were in need of help and delivered higher wages and greater social welfare benefits for the country's worst-off. To this end, Eva created a foundation in 1948, which was part-funded by 'donations' coerced from Argentina's wealthy elite. The foundation's lack of accounts, combined with the First Lady's penchant for expensive attire, led to suspicions of corruption, but the charity had many successes, including building new houses, schools and hospitals.



## "Don't cry for me, Argentina. The truth is I shall not leave you. Though it may get harder, for you to see me, I'm Argentina, and always will be."

LEFT: Evita casts her vote in the general election from her hospital bed in November 1951. At this point, her cervical cancer is still a secret.

BELOW: When news of Evita's passing reaches the masses, much of Argentina enters a period of mourning. Here, crowds gather to see her body at the General Workers Confederation building



### BODY SNATCH

Three years after her death, Evita's **embalmed body was stolen** by the army and flown to Italy. In 1971, it was given to Juan Perón, then living in Spain, before being returned to Argentina in 1974.

Eva also had a major impact on the lives of Argentinian women. After historic legislation was passed that gave women the vote, Eva created the Female Perónist Party, which had 500,000 members and was the country's first large women's party. The First Lady, however, courted controversy, when, on a 'Rainbow Tour' of Europe, she visited Spain, which was then under the rule of military dictator, General Franco. She was greeted by millions of people in Madrid, but her critics denounced her as a Fascist sympathiser.

Back in Argentina, the Perón administration was becoming increasingly authoritarian, and was attempting to silence dissent by sacking or imprisoning its opponents in the press or within academia.

### POPULAR DEMAND

Nonetheless, by the 1951 election, the Peróns remained popular with the working classes. So much so, that, at a mass rally of 2 million workers, the crowd demanded that Eva run as Juan's Vice President. But, under pressure from the country's military and upper classes, who had long feared the First Lady

wielded too much power, she declined the offer. At the same time, her health was rapidly deteriorating as she was suffering from cancer. Seriously ill and unable to stand, Eva made her last public appearance in June 1952, at her husband's second inauguration, around the time she was given the official title of 'Spiritual Leader of the Nation'. Not long after that, aged just 33, Eva passed away. Some 2 million Argentinians lined the streets of Buenos Aires for her funeral.

Her remarkable story makes for an energetic and entertaining film – a spectacle that captures a sense of the dramatic change that was tearing through the country. Historically, however, the movie's representation of Evita is superficial. The plot focuses on her style, appearance and celebrity, rather than her considerable political achievements, which improved the lives of millions of Argentinians. ☺



### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Does *Evita* portray Eva Perón's real impact?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

## Ones to watch: political leading ladies

### The Lady

(Luc Besson, 2011)  
The moving story of Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize winner who fought for democracy and human rights in Myanmar.



Michelle Yeoh stars as Aung San Suu Kyi in *The Lady*

### Mo

(Philip Martin, 2010)  
A BAFTA-winning film about MP Mo Mowlam, focussing on the Good Friday Agreement and her struggle with cancer.

### The Iron Lady

(Phyllida Lloyd, 2011)  
Depicting the life of

Margaret Thatcher – the UK's first female Prime Minister – this biopic features a masterly performance by Meryl Streep in the lead role.

Want to enjoy more history? Our monthly guide to activities and resources is a great place to start

# HERE & NOW

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## ON OUR RADAR

What's caught our attention this month...

### FESTIVAL

## Chalke Valley History Festival

As 2015 marks a number of significant anniversaries – Magna Carta and the battles of **Agincourt, Waterloo and Britain** to name a few – the ever-growing Chalke Valley History Festival promises to be especially successful this year.

A huge number of historical periods are covered over the course of the **jam-packed week of family entertainment**. There is an aerial display of historic craft (such as Spitfires and Hurricanes), living-history demonstrations, interactive displays including a life-size World War I trench, as well as talks and debates featuring dozens of respected historians. Whatever your area of interest – be it guns or cooking; kings or peasants; ancient or modern – **Britain's largest history festival** is the place for any history fan.

*Runs 22-28 June, near Salisbury in Wiltshire; for more information, go to [www.cvhf.org.uk](http://www.cvhf.org.uk)*

From red coats to Victorian street urchins, you'll never know who you'll meet wandering around the Chalke Valley History Festival



### WEBSITE



## Bomb Sight

[www.bombsight.org](http://www.bombsight.org); also available on Android at play.google.com

The German Luftwaffe dropped thousands of bombs on London during the **Blitz of 1940-41**, and you can see where they landed thanks to this interactive website. Using data from the National Archives, it maps where and when individual bombs fell – the overall sight of **London covered in red dots** is humbling.

The project also collects stories from Blitz survivors



### LIVING HISTORY

## Mustering for Agincourt

The Raven Tor Living History Group uses **combat displays**, falconry and archery to relive the preparation for Agincourt – **600 years** after the battle. *Runs 20-21 June at Arundel Castle, West Sussex; more info at [www.arundelcastle.org](http://www.arundelcastle.org)*

### TV

## D-Day: Lost Films

H2, 5 and 6 June, 9pm

To mark the anniversary of D-Day, a **two-part special** uses never-before-seen colour footage of the beaches and moving personal accounts of **soldiers from both sides** to explore this vital World War II operation.





Sir Ian McKellen takes on the esteemed role

## FILM

### Mr Holmes

In cinemas 19 June

We've had Benedict Cumberbatch's modern incarnation and Robert Downey Jr's all-punching blockbuster star, but Sir Ian McKellen presents a fresh outlook on the **famous detective, Sherlock Holmes**.

Set in 1947, Holmes is now an old man coping with the deterioration of his brilliant mind. Yet, with the help of a young boy, he starts **revisiting old cases** and is soon on the scent of one of the few unsolved mysteries from his illustrious career.



Choose a knight to cheer in this contest of honour and bravery

## RE-ENACTMENT

### Medieval Joust

Experience the thrill and danger of the medieval sport of jousting with this **well-researched and highly enjoyable** re-enactment.

Throughout the contest, there's a chance for the **younger members** of the audience to get involved and take on the armoured knights. *At Eltham Palace, Greenwich, on 20-21 June; more at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/whats-on](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/whats-on)*



On display are items from the Crippen case – from scar tissue (above) and portraits from the trial (far left) – as well as lesser-known cases like the Moffat murder in 1935 (left)

## EXHIBITION

### History of forensics

This is your last chance to see the powerful exhibition **Forensics: the Anatomy of Crime**, exploring both the science of forensic medicine and the history of

its use in crime detection. Using original evidence and **real forensic instruments**, the exhibition highlights some of the sensationalist murder cases from the past,

including Dr Crippen. *Ends at Wellcome Collection, London, on 21 June; more at [www.wellcomecollection.org](http://www.wellcomecollection.org)*

## COLLECTION

### Roman Britain

At Buckingham's historic **Old Gaol** is a fascinating exhibition about Ancient Rome, but it ends in June. On display are artefacts from Roman Britain, as well as an impressive **collection of coins**. *Free entry; find out more at [www.buckinghamoldgaol.org.uk](http://www.buckinghamoldgaol.org.uk)*

## OPENING

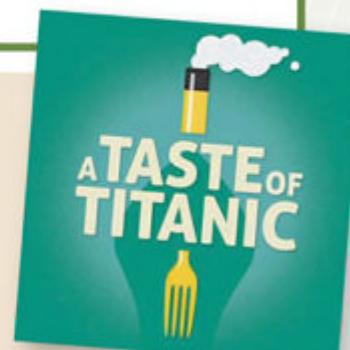
### Salt Works

The Lion Salt Works, a historic salt-making site near Northwich, has been **restored and opened** thanks to a £10 million project. *More at [lionsaltwork.westcheshiremuseums.co.uk](http://lionsaltwork.westcheshiremuseums.co.uk)*

## EVENT

### Titanic meal

From the snacks eaten by shipyard workers to a First Class dining experience, this **food tasting** is a novel way to learn the story of RMS *Titanic*. You can also tour Titanic Belfast's galleries about the **doomed liner**. *The two-hour tasting tour is at Titanic Belfast on 19 June (and again on 21 August); tickets cost £35; go to [www.titanicbelfast.com](http://www.titanicbelfast.com) for more info*

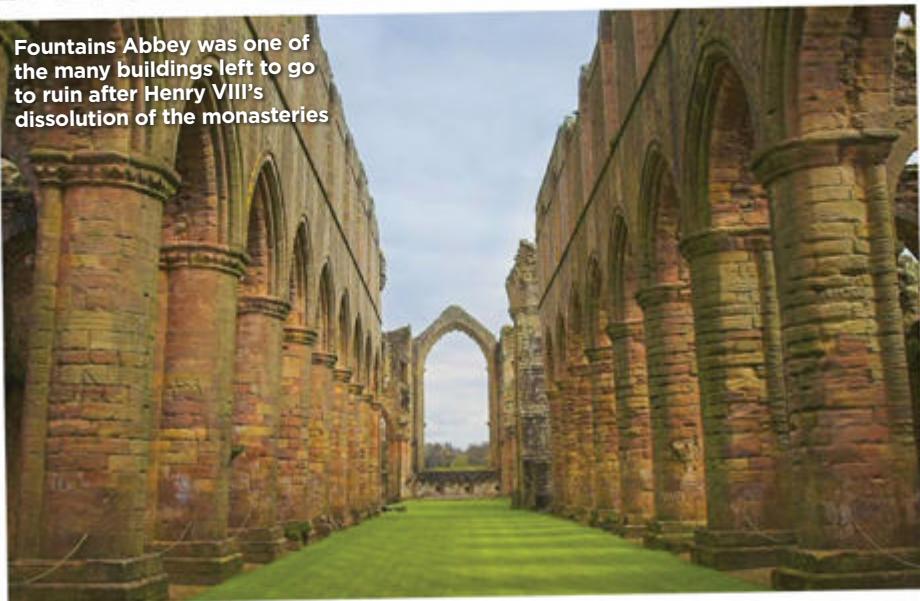


## ► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- **Photography: a Victorian Sensation**, a major exhibition of photography pioneers, opens at the National Museum of Scotland on 19 June
- A new gallery at the British Museum, London, opens on 11 June. The Waddesdon Bequest will feature medieval and Renaissance treasures.



Fountains Abbey was one of the many buildings left to go to ruin after Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries



## HOW TO VISIT...

# ABBEYS AND MONASTERIES

Rupert Matthews explores what remains of the religious buildings that fell victim to Henry VIII and the Dissolution

**T**hroughout the medieval period, abbeys and monasteries dominated the religious, cultural and economic landscape of England and Wales. But between 1536 and 1541, over 800 religious houses were closed by King Henry VIII. Today, their ruins stand as tourist attractions.

Such houses in Britain performed religious and charitable works, from religious services to giving alms to the poor and educating boys. In addition, houses had more specific tasks, such as saying prayers for the souls of benefactors or organising pilgrimages to honour local saints.

Monasteries were also major economic players. They owned vast estates, ran mines and quarries, oversaw markets, owned fishing rights and engaged in international trade. This wealth allowed religious houses to build churches and residential complexes for monks, friars and nuns. The monastic centres were built in the

latest and most lavish architectural styles to create masterpieces of medieval art. At the same time, the living quarters of the monks were sometimes just as impressive, belying the vows of austerity taken by their inhabitants.

Dissatisfaction with religious houses grew in the 16th century. Protestant ideas undermined the concept of the monastic life, while scandals involving sex and money abounded. A consequence was that the rich monasteries and abbeys were easy victims for Henry when he split with Rome – and was in need of cash. All religious houses were closed down, and the assets sold off, within just five years.

While some monasteries were ripped down entirely, buildings in remote areas were left to fall into ruin. Those ruins hint at the architectural glories thrown aside by religious reforms. The skeletal abbeys and monasteries remain a part of the British religious and architectural heritage.



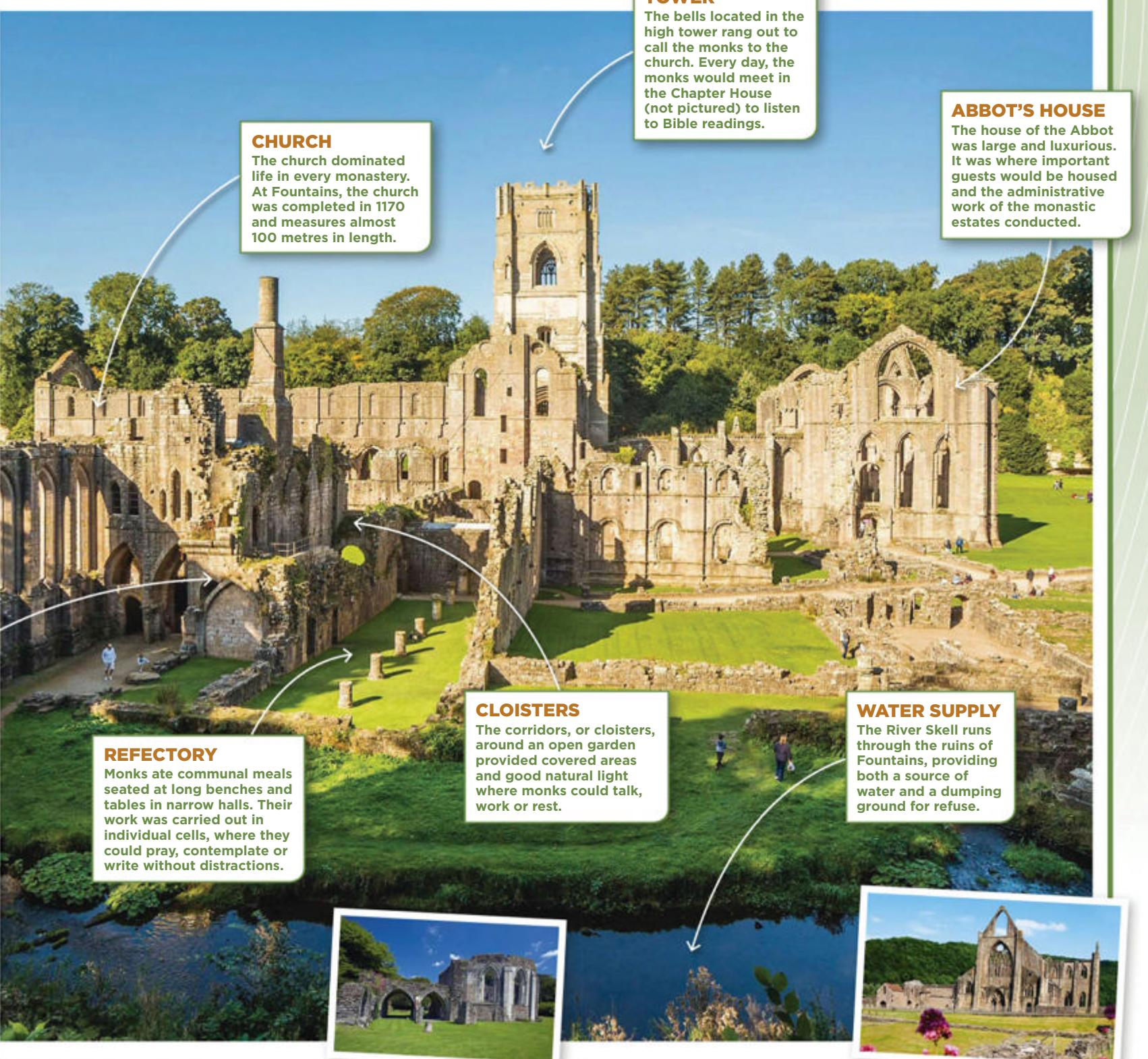
## SIX OF THE BEST ABBEYS AND MONASTERIES

### BOXGROVE PRIORY West Sussex

There were never more than 19 monks at a time at Boxgrove, but it is a little gem. The church remains intact with unusual stone vaulting over the nave.  
[www.boxgrovепriory.co.uk](http://www.boxgrovепriory.co.uk)

### CASTLE ACRE PRIORY Norfolk

Founded in 1089, the sprawling ruins of Castle Acre Priory lie close to the equally impressive castle ruins, both of which have featured in movies and TV shows.  
Search at [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)



## EGGLESTONE ABBEY

County Durham

The picturesque Egglestone was damaged before the Dissolution by medieval Scottish raiders. In the 18th century, its stone was taken to build nearby Rokeby Hall.

Search at [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

## MARGAM ABBEY

Neath Port Talbot

The nave of Margam is now a parish church and remains intact. It is surrounded by extensive ruins, including the largest chapter house in Wales.

[www.margamabbey.co.uk](http://www.margamabbey.co.uk)

## FURNESS ABBEY

Cumbria

Once the second-richest abbey in England, the ruins of Furness spread over a large area and are haunted - not by a ghostly monk, but by a white lady.

Search at [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

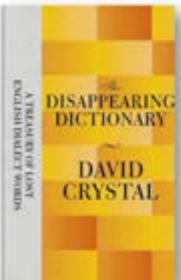
## TINTERN ABBEY

Monmouthshire

The visually stunning ruins of the Cistercian abbey, hidden in the beautiful countryside, has inspired poets and painters such as Wordsworth and JMW Turner. Search at [www.cadw.gov.wales](http://www cadw.gov.wales)

# BOOKS

## BOOK OF THE MONTH



### The Disappearing Dictionary: a Treasury of Lost English Dialect Words

By David Crystal

Macmillan, £12.99, 320 pages, hardback

Picture the scene: you just dropped something – this issue of *History Revealed*, let's say – down a crack in the floor. Depending on which part of Britain you hail from, there are many ways to express what's happened. You may say it's a 'jubbity' (an unfortunate difficulty), or you may refer to the gap as a 'squinch' (a narrow space). These are just two of the words from Crystal's anthology of vanishing words and phrases, which offer charming, idiosyncratic windows into the ways of our ancestors and, therefore, should not be forgotten.



#### GLORYS:

In Yorkshire, you eyes are  
your 'glorys' and your  
spectacles your 'gloasers'



#### MEET THE AUTHOR

**David Crystal** yadders on about the capacious words that may – if we're not gangagous – be lost forever, which would be an absolute dimracker

## "Dialect words are playful, ingenious, cheeky, poetic"

#### What inspired you to write the book and how did you collect the words?

I was looking something up in Joseph Wright's remarkable six-volume *English Dialect Dictionary*, published around 1900. As I flipped through the pages, my eye was caught by

several fascinating old words that I'd never come across before. I jotted a couple down, but then started thinking of how many more words there are out there. So, beginning at A, I read through to Z, and found hundreds.

It brought home just what an amazing job Wright did, and what a shame it is that hardly anyone remembers his work compiling the first comprehensive study of dialect words in Britain. I felt that the *Dictionary* and his extraordinary career – beginning as an illiterate quarry-boy and ending as a Professor at Oxford – deserved to be celebrated.

**CURGLAFF:**  
A Scottish word expressing the shock at the initial sensation of plunging into cold water



weather, insults, everyday activities and types of personality. Here, change is less predictable, but bound up with issues of community. Dialects exist to express local identity, and a new generation often seeks to distance itself from its predecessor, leaving old words behind and coining new ones.

What I'd love to find out is if any of the words in my collection are actually still heard, a century after Wright recorded them. I hope to have a website where readers can let me know of any they hear.

#### Why is it important that we don't forget local words such as these?

Dialect words are playful, ingenious, cheeky, poetic, atmospheric and phonetically appealing – and often suggest meanings not captured by modern vocabulary. In an age where worries are often expressed about the 'dumbing down' of language, the innovative character of dialect words reminds us of our ever-present ability to be linguistically creative, and prompt us to continue to be daring in our use of language.

#### Are there any words that are particular favourites of yours?

No, not really. Or perhaps I should say, they are all my favourites. Who could ever resist the appeal of such words as 'discomfrontle' (meaning to upset or disturb) and 'lobstropolous' (loud and mischievous)?

#### What caused such words to fall into disuse?

Many of the words in Wright's *Dictionary* relate to practices that have long since died out, such as old street games, village customs and farming methods. That's a natural process of social change and so I chose not to include those in my collection.

I thought it would be more interesting to find words that could still be used today, in relation to such topics as the

## THE BEST OF THE REST



### Our Land at War: a Portrait of Rural Britain, 1939-45

By Duff Hart-Davis  
William Collins, £20,  
464 pages, hardback

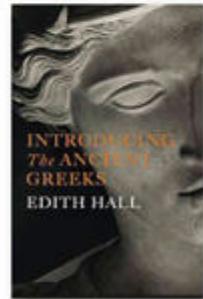
Away from the blood and barbarity of the front line, World War II had lasting impact for those back home. From the children who were evacuated, the political prisoners evicted and the men of the Home Guard, this book offers a warm, wry look at how the conflict shaped rural communities around Britain.



### Victoria: Queen, Matriarch, Empress

By Jane Ridley  
Allen Lane, £10.99,  
160 pages, hardback

Part of the 'Penguin Monarchs' series of Britain's rulers, this is a perceptive overview of a queen who – far from the reserved character of her reputation – emerges as complex and courageous. Coming to the throne at 18, Victoria ruled over a period of monumental political, scientific, military, cultural and industrial changes.



### Introducing the Ancient Greeks

By Edith Hall  
The Bodley Head, £20,  
336 pages, hardback

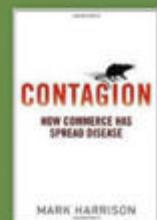
What characteristics do we associate with the Ancient Greeks? It's a big question, but Edith Hall offers her take. She concludes that they were individualistic, inquiring, and addicted to pleasure, and that such traits explain the success and influence of their civilisation. Hall makes a persuasive argument in this illuminating introduction.

## READ UP ON...

### HEALTH

#### BEST FOR... THE BIG PICTURE **Contagion: How Commerce has Spread Disease**

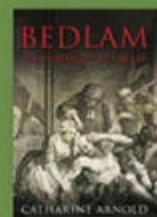
By Mark Harrison  
Yale University Press,  
£25, 416 pages, hardback



Despite the continual advances in modern medicine, the spread of global disease is a terrifying prospect – as recent fears concerning Ebola attest. It may not be the most comforting read but this history of pandemics is sprawling and involved, with a focus on plague and yellow fever outbreaks and the causes of their spread.

#### BEST FOR... MENTAL HEALTH **Bedlam: London and its Mad**

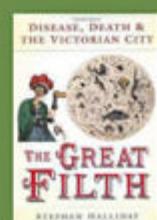
By Catharine Arnold  
Pocket Books, £8.99,  
336 pages, paperback



Tackling how mental health was treated at Bedlam has to be done with great sensitivity, which Arnold achieves. It is the oldest institution in Europe to specialise in mental health conditions but its methods weren't always enlightened – in the Victorian era, patients were treated as a circus-style entertainment for Londoners.

#### BEST FOR... VICTORIAN FILTH **The Great Filth: Disease, Death and the Victorian City**

By Stephen Halliday  
The History Press, £17.99,  
256 pages, paperback



With Halliday evocatively capturing the squalor, it's easy to imagine the dirt and decay on the streets of Victorian cities. Yet this book stresses the work of the doctors, scientists and engineers who overcame deadly diseases to make life better.

## LUSITANIA SINKS

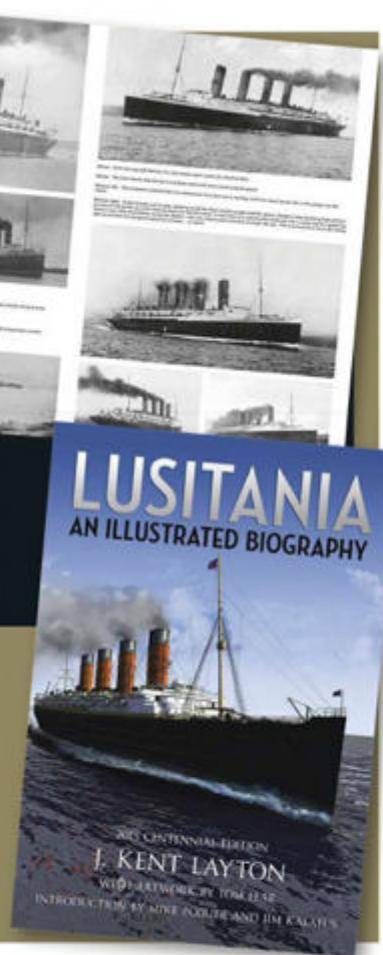
The *Lusitania* tragedy is often overshadowed by the sinking of the *Titanic*, three years earlier



### Lusitania: an Illustrated Biography

By J Kent Layton  
Amberley, £40, 440 pages, hardback

In 1915, the British ocean liner RMS *Lusitania* was torpedoed during World War I, killing 1,198 people. On the centenary of the tragedy, Layton tells the vessel's story through this visual guide – which has plenty of images of the liner and is packed with information of its voyage.

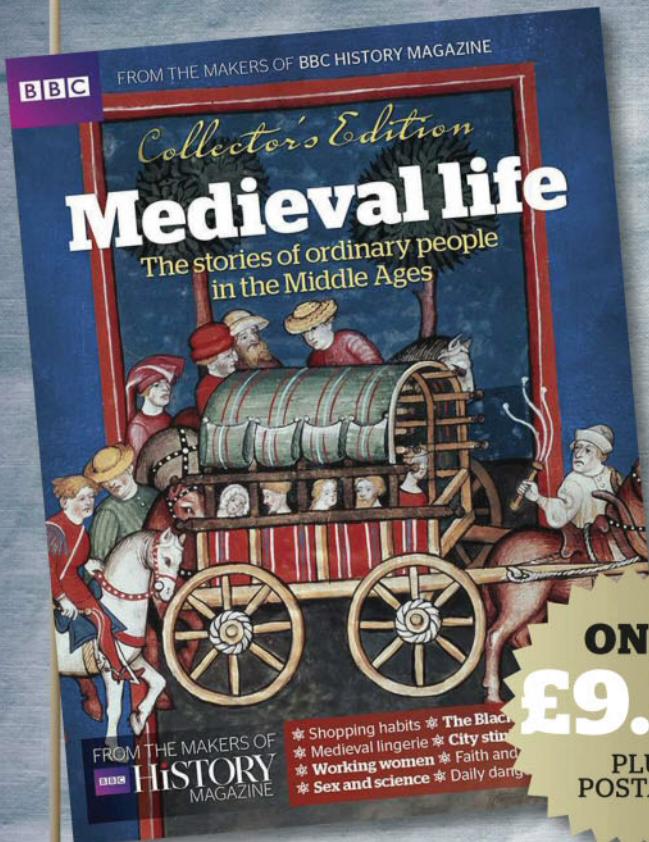


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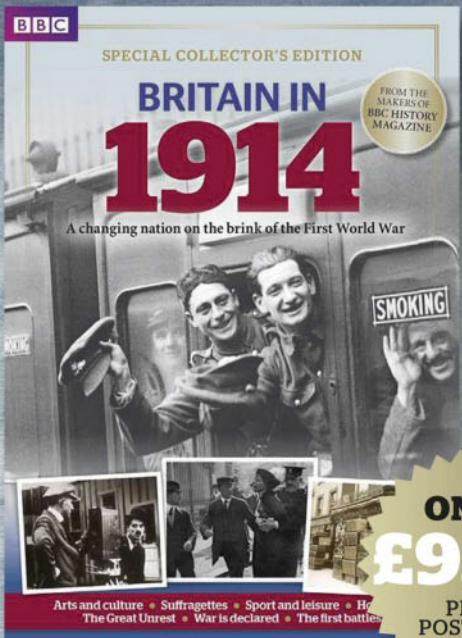
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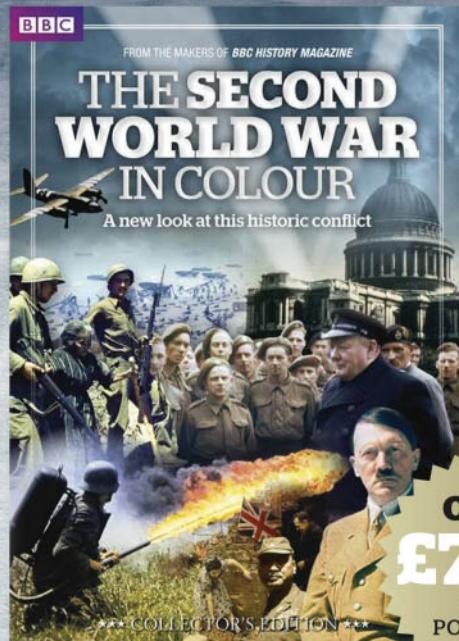
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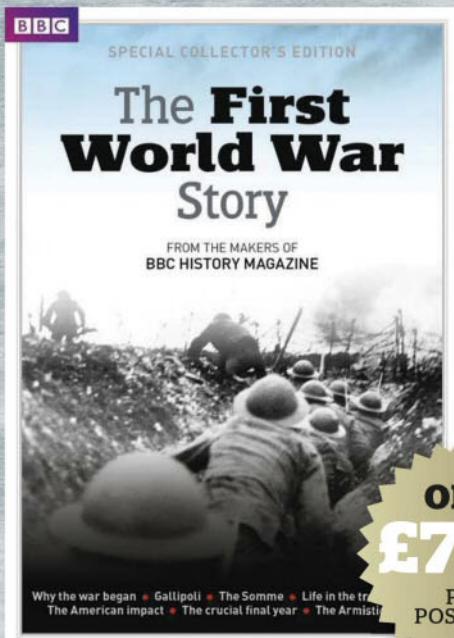
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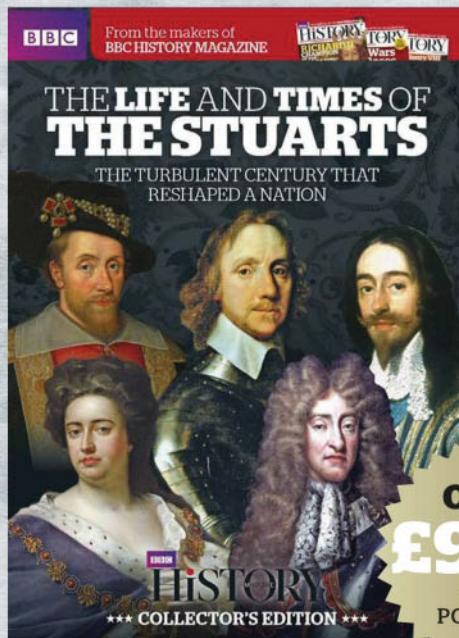
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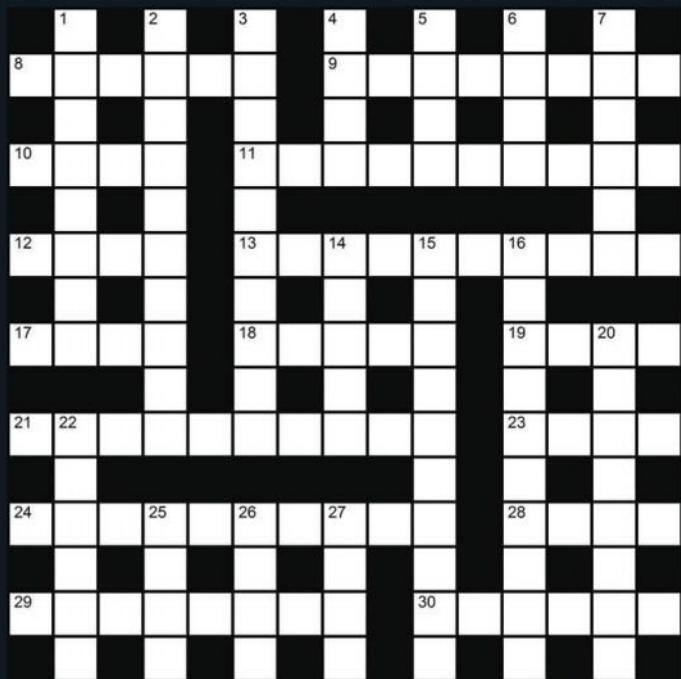
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# CROSSWORD N° 17

If you think you know your history, put your knowledge to the test and you could win a prize

*Set by Richard Smyth*



## ACROSS

- 8 Christ \_\_\_. University of Oxford college established by Henry VIII in 1546 (6)
- 9 English port city from which the Pilgrim Fathers sailed for the New World in 1620 (8)
- 10 In the Bible, the son of Isaac and older twin of Jacob (4)
- 11 Ship's artefact salvaged in 1858 and now held at Lloyd's of London (6,4)
- 12 Captain William \_\_\_, Scottish sailor famously executed for piracy in 1701 (4)
- 13 Albert \_\_\_, Alsace-born theologian and missionary, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952 (10)
- 17 English monk known as 'the Venerable', died in AD 735 (4)

## CROSSWORD COMPETITION TERMS & CONDITIONS

The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

- 18 Another name for the legendary city of Troy (5)
- 19 "Wake not a sleeping \_\_\_" – the warning given to Falstaff in William Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part 2* (4)
- 21 Member of the royal dynasty that ruled Britain from 1714 to 1901 (10)
- 23 Old Scots name for the Scottish Gaelic language (4)
- 24 Hungarian composer and pianist (1881-1945) (4,6)
- 28 The name for Dutch-speaking settlers of South Africa, meaning 'farmer' (4)
- 29 *The Star-\_\_\_ Banner*, US national anthem since 1931 (8)
- 30 Name adopted by Nicholas Breakspear – the only English Pope, elected 1154 (6)

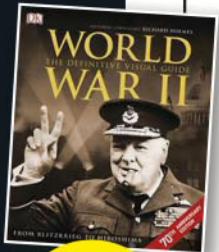
## DOWN

- 1 English county traditionally known for its cheese (and its grinning cat) (8)
- 2 Name commonly given to the former site of the World Trade Center in New York (6,4)
- 3 One such as Goliath or Abimelech, according to the Old Testament (10)
- 4 "Out, damned \_\_\_!" – said by Lady Macbeth in William Shakespeare's tragedy (4)
- 5 City in France, noted for the Cathédrale of Saint-Jean Baptiste and the large town square Place Bellecour (4)
- 6 "Two bald men fighting over a \_\_\_" – Argentinian writer Jorge Luis Borges' description of the Falklands War (4)
- 7 Clement \_\_\_ (1883-1967), post-war Labour Party Prime Minister in Britain (6)
- 14 Caribbean country ruled from 1957-71 by François 'Papa Doc' Duvalier (5)
- 15 Celebrated Shakespearean actor (1787-1833) (6,4)
- 16 Gloucestershire town, site of a major battle in 1471, during the Wars of the Roses (10)
- 20 US city founded in 1905, known for its associations with the gambling industry (3,5)
- 22 Ancient city in modern-day Syria, twice besieged (unsuccessfully) by the Crusaders in 1098 and 1124 (6)
- 25 The last Stuart monarch of Great Britain (4)
- 26 '\_\_\_ Reekie', local name for the city of Edinburgh (4)
- 27 Sweeney \_\_\_, folkloric murderer of London's Fleet Street, first appeared in a Victorian serial (4)

## CHANCE TO WIN...

### World War II: the Definitive Visual Guide

70th anniversary edition, foreword by Editorial Consultant Richard Holmes



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## HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, June 2015 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to [june2015@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk](mailto:june2015@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk)

by noon on **24 June 2015**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.

## SOLUTION N° 15



The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at [www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy).

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

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**NEXT MONTH**

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# TERROR IN THE TOWER OF LONDON

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# A-Z of History

For the finale of this fantastic issue, **Nige Tassell** flicks through a fortune of fun and fascinating facts

## FELIX'S OVERKILL

Felix Yusupov, husband of Tsar Nicholas II's niece, led one of history's more bizarre assassinations. In 1916, he and several other nobles conspired to murder Grigory Rasputin, the influential confidante of the Tsar's wife. Having been poisoned and shot, the still-alive Rasputin tried to escape before being bludgeoned and finally thrown into St Petersburg's freezing Neva River.

## Fishbourne Find

Fishbourne Roman Palace, a major site of historical interest, was accidentally discovered in West Sussex in 1960 by an engineer laying a new water main. The find was immense. Subsequent excavation has revealed the largest-known Roman residence in northern Europe, the area of which is even greater than current-day Buckingham Palace.

## HATS OFF TO FES

The University of al-Qarawiyyin, in the Moroccan city of Fes, claims to be the oldest continuously operating seat of higher education. Although only incorporated into the country's university system in 1963, it was founded as a religious school by Fatima al-Fihri as long ago as AD 859.

## FLORENCE, ITALY

Today, she is considered one of history's greatest Britons. But nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale wasn't quite the English rose she might have appeared. She was actually born in Italy, in the city whose name she bears, while her parents were undertaking a European tour during 1820. Her older sister, Frances Parthenope, was also named after the place of her birth - 'Parthenope' was the Greek form of Naples.

## Ferdinand names the seas

Before he was killed in the Philippines – during the expedition that made the first circumnavigation of the globe in 1521 – the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan gave the Pacific Ocean its name.

Compared to his turbulent crossing of the Atlantic, these larger waters were much calmer for Magellan's three ships, prompting him to name it *Mar Pacifico*, meaning 'peaceful sea'.



## FLAG OF THE FREE

Robert Heft was a 17-year-old student from Ohio who, in 1958, designed the 50-state Stars and Stripes flag. Part of a high-school project, it received a grade of B- from his teacher. Heft's design, however, was adopted by the US government the following year when the 50th state, Hawaii, was admitted to the Union. At that point, Heft's teacher upgraded it to an A.

## FDR AND HIS FILLY

During her husband Franklin Delano Roosevelt's four terms in office, Eleanor Roosevelt was a hugely influential First Lady. Yet, she wasn't the woman present when FDR suffered a fatal cerebral haemorrhage in 1945. In attendance was Lucy Mercer, Eleanor's former social secretary, who the President had been meeting behind his wife's back – an affair that began nearly three decades previously.

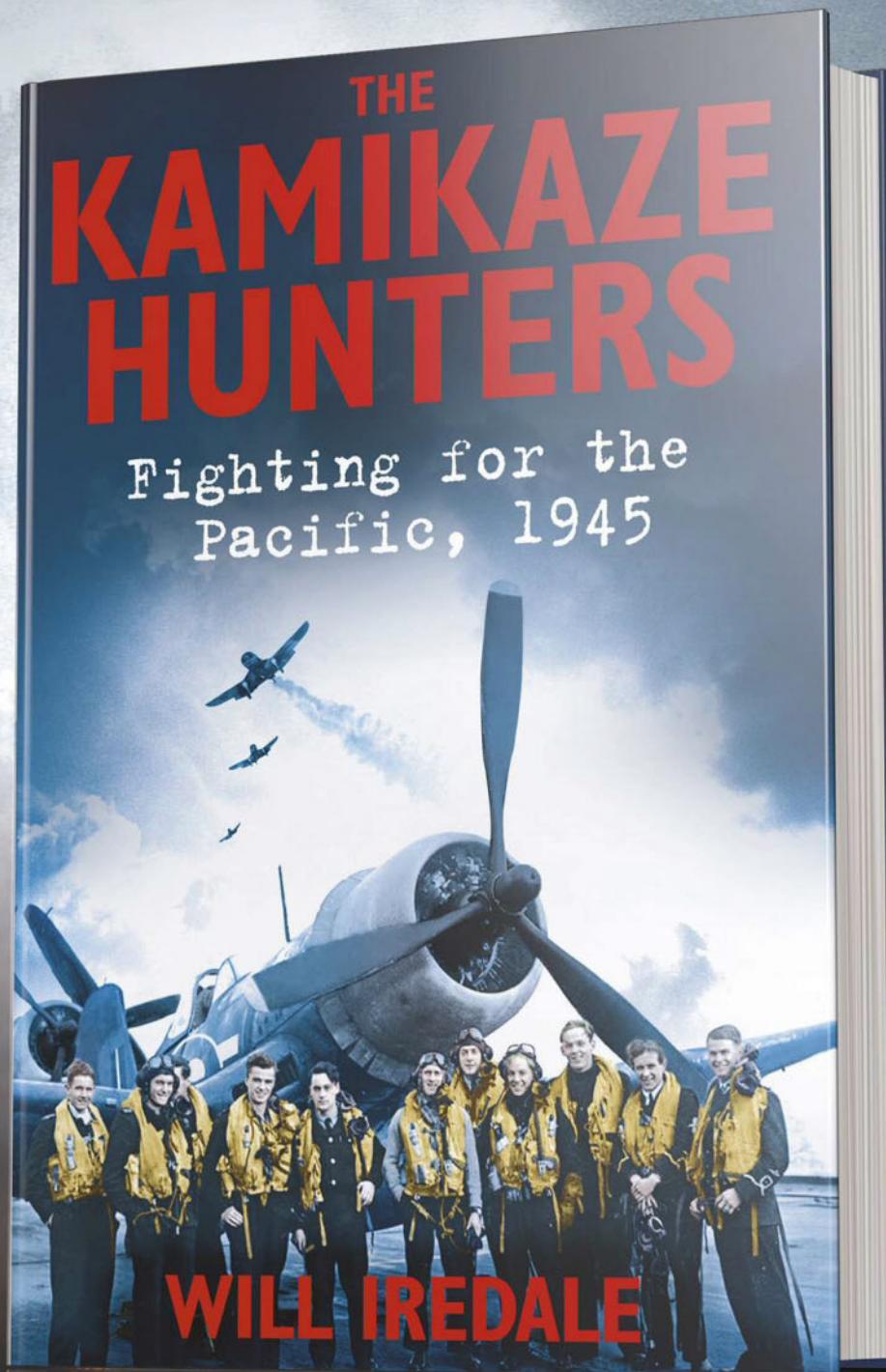
## FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY MEASURES

In 1795, the first French Republic instigated what would later become the near-universal metric system of measurement. This uniformity was crucial as, prior to the revolution, there were some 250,000 different weights and measures in existence across France alone.



# THE UNTOLD STORY

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